

Introduction to Iaido Course and Curriculum.

Iaido #1: Introduction to Iaido, Fall 09. The class meets on Thursday nights in August from 7:30 – 8:15, and then Thursday nights from 7:30 – 8:30 and Saturdays 10:30 – 11:30am in the months of September and October.

Course Objectives:

Introduction to Iaido is a three-month course designed to give the beginning student a basic introduction into the movements, concepts and vocabulary associated with Iaido. This course is intended for the new student, but more advanced students are welcome to participate as well. There is no prerequisite for this course.

Although the course is open to everyone, a certification is available for those who intend to move on to subsequent Iaido courses. Admittance into more advanced Iaido classes is contingent on several criteria outlined below. For those who wish to “audit” the course, who want to experience Iaido at their own pace, there is no graded criteria. For those who don’t pass the certification or who would like, at a future date, to try for their certification the class may be taken again at a reduced rate.

Course Outcome:

Upon the completion of Introduction to Iaido the passing student will receive a certificate of completion. This certificate allows for the participation in subsequent Iaido courses (Iaido #2, #3, etc.) with the final outcome of black belt in Iaido.

The goal of this course is to give a basic but comprehensive introduction to Iaido, and an introduction to the appreciation of the Japanese sword itself. The goals of this course are:

- Teach one set (Shoden) in its entirety
- Learn basic terms of Iaido
- Learn basic terms of sword and sword parts
- Basic appreciation and understanding of Japanese swords
- Learn manners and etiquette associated with Iaido
- Basic history of Iaido

Attendance and Participation:

Attendance for the certification course is mandatory. No more than four unexcused absences will be allowed. Although students are welcome to participate in any manner they wish, a certificate of completion cannot be given with excessive absences.

Tuition:

For members of Woburn Aikido the tuition is \$120 payable at the beginning of the course. For non-members the tuition is \$240. All tuition and associated fees must be submitted two weeks prior to the beginning of the course.

Equipment:

For the introductory course the only required equipment is a white Judo gi and a wooden practice sword. The gi can be purchased through any purveyor but are available for purchase at the dojo for \$50. A wooden sword may also be purchased through the dojo (\$70), or may be borrowed from the dojo for an additional fee of \$50 per semester. All purchases must be made prior to the beginning of the course.

A journal and pen are also required and should be brought to each class. It is recommended that the journal be of a higher quality, but is certainly not required.

- * White Judo Gi
- * Bokken (wooden practice sword)
- * Journal
- * Pen/Pencil

Although an Iaito (practice sword) and Hakama are not required for Intro to Iaido it is highly recommended for the students who intend to continue on. For Iaido #2 and all other courses a sword and hakama are required.

Etiquette and Manners:

Although this is an introductory course, it is expected that each student have a basic knowledge and understanding of how to behave in an Aikido dojo. Disrespectful or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated and will result in immediate expulsion from the course. Cell phones must be turned off upon entering the dojo with the exception of a special need.

Grading:

The final assessment of the course will be based on several factors. Failure in any area will result in a failure for the course.

1. Demonstration of physical ability.
2. Comprehensive knowledge and completion of coursework.
3. Overall impression of student's progress.

There will be several examinations during the course, and it is expected that each student be prepared. Examinations will involve a demonstration of techniques learned, as well as a final examination that will consist of, at minimum, a demonstration of the entire set. Periodic coursework will be given, and should be handed in on the due date.