



PRESENTS

A GUIDELINE FOR NINJUTSU INSTRUCTORS

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As a ninjutsu instructor you have the responsibility to continue ninjutsu as a tradition. It has become common to “modernise” the ancient ninja arts to allow them to come forward in time. This is a mistake, ninjutsu can not be modernised nor can it be adapted. The essence of ninjutsu itself is adaptation to a situation and the core factor is to, *think outside of the box*. Every single concept in the art of ninjutsu is applicable today, the only elements of ninjutsu that change are the tools and the background in which it is performed. Ninjutsu is never stagnant and ninjutsu is never left behind, for ninjutsu is the art of *stealing in* and the art of perseverance, both of which are as valid today as they were in ancient times. If you do not know how to survive outside of society you can not be a functioning human, to be a true human you have to be able to live under any condition that is thrown at you, this is ninjutsu, this is the art of perseverance and you are an instructor.

Statements to be Understood by *All* Ninja Students

As an instructor you must instil the following points into your students. If these points infiltrate the ninjutsu community, a vast amount of the misunderstandings will disappear.

- The historically correct word for ninja is *shinobi no mono* or simply, *shinobi*.
- The historically correct word for ninjutsu is *shinobi no jutsu*.
- A shinobi is an espionage agent, a spy, a commando and front line shock troop; he may be skilled in all of the latter or only in part.

- A shinobi's main role is that of intelligence gathering, no matter what form it may take.
- If a shinobi had any skills in the martial arts, then they would be the martial arts of the family or clan they were attached to, or the skills of the family or clan that they were brought up in.
- In times of war, a ninja is an agent utilized by a commander to gain an upper hand in an upcoming battle.
- In times of peace, a ninja is an agent utilized by a commander to gain an upper hand by infiltrating the enemy and understanding their intentions.
- Some ninja could be classed as a "perfect weapon" while others could be as lowly as a common man asked for information. It must be understood that a ninja was judged by his skills, not by his position as a ninja.
- A ninja could be a samurai, an ashigaru foot soldier, a farmer or any other social class. Ninjutsu is a job, not a social position.
- The origin of ninjutsu is unknown. The first real mention of a shinobi was found in the late 1300's. Any information on the origins of ninjutsu is pure speculation.

Ninjutsu Misnomers

The following points are viewed incorrectly by the ninjutsu community. All instructors should ensure that these misnomers are eradicated from the ninjutsu community.

- Ninjutsu is not a martial art.
- Ninjas were not assassins but were called upon to assassinate.
- Ninja weapons, such as *shuriken*, *kama*, hidden canes etc., are not ninja weapons they were used by all warriors in Japan.
- The ninja suit is not a suit *per say*. It is traditional Japanese street wear with the addition of a face covering and would not look out of place on the roads of medieval Japan.
- *Kunoichi* were not female warriors. They were trained spies who often were planted within castles to glean information through any means, including debasing themselves sexually.

A Guide to Teaching

As a ninjutsu instructor you represent the future of ninjutsu and the continuation of the art. This document is a simple outline and example of the manner in which you should teach ninjutsu.

Students:

Your students should feel like they are a part of a community and they should make written promises to keep your information secret unless they are talking with another ninjutsu groups. This bond should be extended to other assemblies and like *Natori* says, shinobi should have a sealed promise, "*if I come to you, show me your tradition, if you come to us, we will show you ours.*"

Uniform:

Ninjutsu groups should come away from the black karate *Gi*, it is not historically correct and it does not reflect the ninja. The Karate *Gi* is a modern invention and does not replicate the historical clothes of the *Sengoku Period*. It is recommended that you have a uniform, to help establish solidarity, however, it would be best to place your uniform within a modern context.

An Example Uniform:

Appropriate footwear, including *tabi*.

Loose fitting trousers.

A T-shirt.

A top.

A School name.

A school colour scheme.

A School Logo

The Six Basic Tools

Every student of ninjutsu should have the following tools:

1. A hat that blends with their social setting yet hides their face.
2. A small grappling hook and rope.
3. A pencil and paper in a waterproof container.
4. A three foot by one foot piece of cloth.
5. A First Aid kit
6. Fire Starting equipment and/or hand warmers.

An Example Two Hour Lesson Plan

Every ninjutsu lesson should be different but they should all concentrate around a core curriculum, a curriculum that has principles and not techniques. The following is a basic example of a lesson division. Above all, as an instructor you should stick to the original manuals (see website) and adapt the lessons within them. Remember ninjutsu can also be practiced in its historical context.

Students should warm up before the lesson.

0-15: martial arts training.

15-30: memory games and information retrieval skills.

30-45: climbing & balancing skills.

45-60: false information detection training.

60-75: camouflage and concealment training.

75-90: single rope skills, knot work and restraint with cords.

90-105: conversation tactics.

105-120: breaking and entering skills.

Post lesson: green tea and open debate.

A full ninja curriculum would take years to master and should be practiced diligently and with a full spirit, one should never be bored in ninjutsu training. Ninjutsu, as an art that is and can be used for life, giving you advanced skills and training which should surpass standard military training. As *Natori Masatake* says in his manual *True Path of the Ninja*, ninjutsu is for the protection of your bloodline.

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