

Welcome to the **Bujinkan Lexington Dojo**. Unlike many martial arts, Ninjutsu is not a sport; it is a way of life whose practices have been developed over many centuries and across many traditions. The system is, therefore, a bit confusing to many newcomers. The figure below is intended to help put some structure to the seemingly abstract and scarce information you may find pertaining to its history.

Bujinkan (Warrior Spirit Place)

The Bujinkan is composed of nine schools or “**Ryu**” each of which has its own specialties or arts. While training in any Ryu of the Bujinkan, one practices **budo taijutsu** (war way body art). Regardless of the particular Ryu you train in (many techniques are learned in more than one ryu) you are ranked on how well you move, more specifically, how well you practice **budo taijutsu**. Thus, the rank you are given in one school applies to all of the other 8 in the Bujinkan. The nine schools are listed below in random order along with their specialty art. ****Note that two schools may share a specialty yet the techniques are very different, ie. Gikan ryu koppojutsu is not the same as Koto ryu koppojutsu.****

Koto ryu

(Tiger Knockdown School)

*Specializes in **koppojutsu**
(bone structure art)*

Gyokko ryu

(Jeweled Tiger School)

*Specializes in **koshijutsu**
(bone finger art)*

Takagi Yoshin ryu

(High Willow Tree Spirit School)

*Specializes in **jujutsu**
(soft art)*

Shinden Fudo ryu

(Divine Transmission of
Immovability School)

*Specializes in **dakentaijutsu**
(hard weapon body art)*

Kukishinden ryu

(Nine Demons' Divine
Transmission School)

*Specializes in **Happo Hikenjutsu**
(eight secret weapons art)*

Gikan ryu

(Clear Truth and Justice School)

*Specializes in **Koppojutsu** (bone
structure art)*

Togakure ryu (Hidden Door School)

*Specializes in **Ninjutsu** (Concealing arts,
stealth arts, patient arts)*

Kumogakure ryu

(Hidden Cloud School)

*Specializes in **Ninjutsu***

Gyokushin ryu

(Pearl Heart School)

*Specializes in **Ninjutsu***