

# **Abstract**

**Title:** Historical and Philosophical Context of the Art of Archery in Japan

## **Objectives:**

The objective of this thesis is to describe Japanese martial art *kyudo* and introduce it to the wide public with the emphasis on the historical context and its relation to philosophical and religious systems. The first part focuses on the history and development of the Japanese archery, different kinds of Japanese martial activities and basic technique and equipment of *kyudo* in the frame of Japanese archery. The second part describes philosophical and religious systems within the context of martial arts, especially Zen Buddhism. Further, I will explain the general situation of *kyudo* within Czech conditions and introduce the role and the legacy of Eugen Herrigel, which is essential for modern *kyudo*.

## **Methods:**

Basic methods of theoretical work (see the Methodology Section).

## **Keywords:**

*Kyujutsu*, *kyudo*, martial arts, Japan