



# Maestro John Sullins



**D**r. Sullins is a Professor of Philosophy at Sonoma State University and director of the Fencing Masters Certificate Program ([www.ssufmcp.com](http://www.ssufmcp.com)).

Additionally he serves as an advisor and coach for the university's fencing club and teaches theatrical fencing in the theater arts department. He also teaches Italian Sabre and historical fencing at En Garde Fencing in Santa Rosa California (<https://egfencing.com/>)

Professor Sullins has four decades of experience in fencing and various martial arts (mixed martial arts mostly) and has been teaching fencing and WMA for over thirty years.

Dr. Sullins studied under many great fencing teachers but most of his training was done with Maestro William Gaugler and Military Master at Arms Ralph Sahn at the San Jose State Military Fencing Masters Program. He earned three Military Instructors at Arms certificates in foil épée and sabre, a Military Provost at Arms certificate and Military Master at Arms certificate ([www.sallegreen.com/mastersS.html](http://www.sallegreen.com/mastersS.html)). Dr. Sullins' fencing style traces its roots through the Italian Roman-Neapolitan School and the School of Leghorn which both have much deeper roots to earlier styles of fencing back at least 500 years or more.

Professor Sullins is an expert within the tradition of classical Italian sabre. In 1990, Dr. Sullins encountered a heavy antique fencing sabres in an arms and armor shop in Rome and since that time he has been helping to resurrect that style of fencing. In the mid 1990's he started the Broadsword and Heavy Sabre yahoo group ([http://sports.dir.groups.yahoo.com/group/Broadsword\\_Heavy\\_Sabre/](http://sports.dir.groups.yahoo.com/group/Broadsword_Heavy_Sabre/)) and who were successful in getting some manufacturers to build heavy sabre blades and weapons. There are now many decent heavy fencing sabres available and good helmets and protective gear is also available from Terry Tindle ([www.thatguysproducts.com/](http://www.thatguysproducts.com/)).

## **Class**

### **Cavalry Saber**

From the early 19th century, sabre gains widespread use and its design is inspired by the Mameluke sword, a type of Middle Eastern scimitar. Napoleon used it in great extent during his wars as a main weapon for heavy cavalry and their charges. Shorter variants were also designed and were used as sidearms by dismounted units. British Government authorized their pattern swords for use by infantry officers at the same time. As longer-range rifles appeared on the battlefields, cavalry charges fell out of favor and sabres with them at least for the military uses. Some European police forces used sabres for both mounted and dismounted police officers during the 19th and at the beginning of the 20th century. Luckily, to some extent, for civilians, sabres were later replaced with batons and night stick. Some polices like the Gendarmerie of Belgium used them until 1950s. So, we will be practising sabre as a mounted weapon off our Airship...We will practice the cuts as used unmounted. Then the cuts used mounted. The cavalry charge...And keep in mind this is all within our Steam universe...HUZZAH!!!!