SUGGESTED PAPER TOPICS AND REFERENCES

Here are a few general paper topics with some references. Use this list as a starting point to find a more specific topic or issue to research further. The more specific your topic, the easier it will be for you to research and organize your paper. Finding a topic takes a little time and will require you to read several sources. As you look for a topic, try to come up with an interesting puzzle or question that can be the main focus of the paper. For example, instead of trying to write a paper on Japanese industrial policy, which is a very broad topic, you might narrow your focus to Japanese industrial policy in the high-tech area of semi-conductors and assess whether this policy has been successful or not.

For a general guide on how to go about finding a topic, see http://www.usg.edu/galileo/skills/unit02/.

Students are strongly encouraged to meet with me during my office hours (or by appointment) to discuss their paper topic. If you are having trouble with finding a topic that interests you, I might be able to help you with further suggestions and references.

Agricultural Policy in Japan


**Amakudari**


**Declining Fertility and Population Policy in Japan**


See also the National Institute of Population and Social Security Research website: http://www.ipss.go.jp/index-e.html

**Defense, Security, the US-Japan Military Alliance**


On-line sources:


Disadvantaged Groups in Japan


Susan Pharr. 1990. Losing Face: Status Politics in Japan. Berkeley: University of California Press. (In particular, see chapters and sections on Burakumin.)


Frank K. Upham. 1987. Law and Social Change in Postwar Japan. Cambridge: Harvard University Press. (In particular, see chapter on Burakumin.)

**Economic Downturn, Financial Crises and Structural Reform: Japan’s Post-Bubble Economy**


Special 2012 Issue of *Asian Pacific Business Review*:


**Economic Issues: Keiretsu and the Japanese Firm**


**On-line sources:**


**Election Campaigning, Political Parties, and Electoral Reform in Japan**


Special 2012 JEAS issue on Electoral Politics in Japan:


**Energy Policy, Disaster Management, Regional Development and Post-3/11 Tsunami Japan**


**Environmental Movement and Environment-Related Policies in Japan**


**Foreign Policy and International Relations**


**Foreign Aid, Identity and Soft Power**


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**Japan in Asia: Regionalism, Economic Ties, Security Issues**


**Japan and Asia: North Korea**


**Japan and Asia: Wartime Legacies and Territorial Disputes**


Lind, Jennifer. 2010. *Sorry States: Apologies in International Politics.* Ithaca: Cornell University Press. Also see:


**Immigrants, Migrants and Foreign Workers in Japan**


**Industrial Policy in Japan/Declining Industries**


**Industrial Policy in Japan/Growth Industries**


**Law and Legal Issues**


**Special 2011 Issue in the Washington University Law Review on Judicial System in Japan:**

**Decision Making on the Japanese Supreme Court: The Politics of Supreme Court Adjudication**


Leadership


Local Government in Japan


**Media and Japanese Politics**


Nationalism


Political Protest, Social Movements, Civil Society and Political Participation in Japan


**Refugees, Migrant Workers, Immigration**


**Scandal in Japanese Politics**


**Social Welfare Policy in Japan**


**United States- Japan Economic Relations, Japan’s Trade Policies**


**Women and Political Economy in Japan**

A list of bibliographic references on East Asia women can be found at: [http://digicoll.library.wisc.edu/ACRLWSS/About.html](http://digicoll.library.wisc.edu/ACRLWSS/About.html) (Scroll down to the link for “East Asian Women.”)


Leonard Schoppa, Race for the Exits: The Unraveling of Japan’s System of Social Protection (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2006)—includes discussion of how discontent by women with structures in the political economy has motivated “exit” rather than the exercise of “voice” through a vibrant women’s movement.
