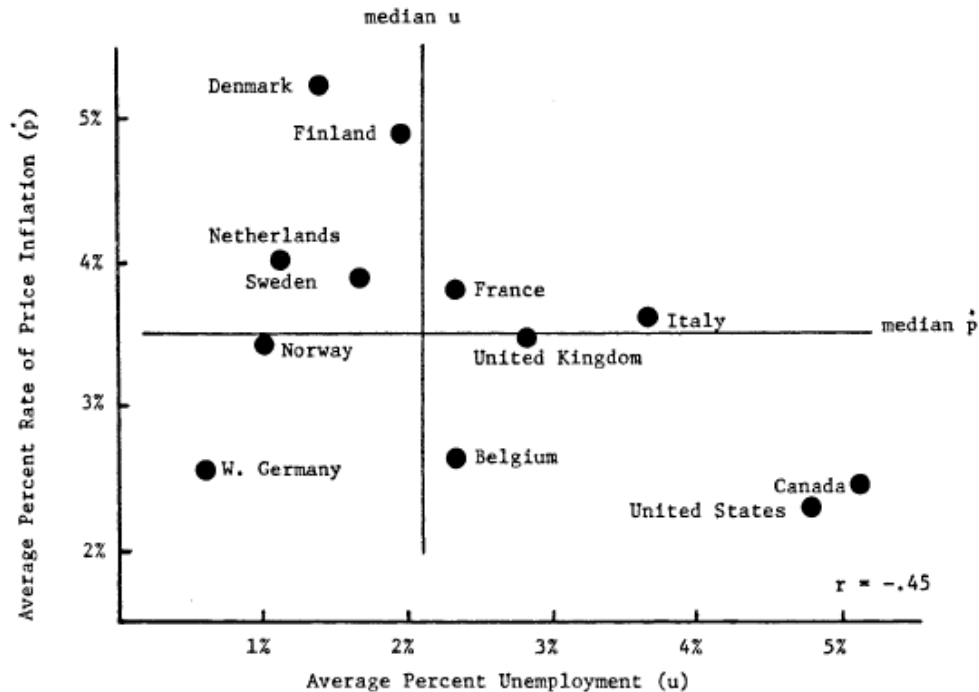


Assignment 1 – Graphic Critique
09/08/22

The below graphic is from a 1977 article in *The American Political Science Review* by Douglas A. Hibbs Jr. (Hibbs, 1977).



**Figure 1. Mean Inflation and Unemployment, 1960–1969,
in 12 West European and North American Nations**

Source: Unemployment data for Canada, France, Italy, Sweden, U.K., and W. Germany are adjusted to the U.S. definition and are from Constance Sorrentino, "Unemployment in the United States and Seven Foreign Countries," *Monthly Labor Review*, 93 (September 1970), 12–23. All other data are from I.L.O., *Yearbook of Labor Statistics*, various volumes.

This chart presents a lot of information quickly. First, notice the median values for inflation and unemployment in the center of the graph. This allows for a quick four by four identification of which countries are in the high/high versus the low/low categories. Second, all axes are clearly labeled with appropriate tick marks. The "r" value is noted in the lower right-hand corner but unfortunately not clearly identified. The title is descriptive and helpful. Also – importantly - the data sources are identified. Although the chart is informative, it is not appealing. Only a single color is being used and there are few identifying contrasts to make such features as the median value crosshairs to stand out. Also the use of the "u" and "p" abbreviations must be searched for to understand their meaning. Perhaps not using abbreviations here would have been better.

References

Hibbs, D. A. (1977). Political parties and macroeconomic policy. *American political science review*, 71(4), 1467-1487.