Criticisms of Psychology

1. Conclusions are often obvious, just common sense
   - People are happy when they do things they like
   - We like people who are like us

2. Conclusions are often wrong
   - Freudian view of unconscious
   - Behaviorism
   - Low Self-esteem and aggression

3. Psychology is subject to unsavory applications
   - Used car salesmen, pick-up artists, advertising

4. Subject matter is easy, doesn't require much to understand, unlike Physics

5. There is no unifying principle or theory which can incorporate (and predict) multiple observations - violates law of parsimony, definition of theory.

6. Psychology findings from experiments are artificial, can't be applied to real life.

7. Pseudopsychology: ESP; self-help, new age, telekinesis
Psychology and the Law

I. Beginnings of Neurolaw
   A). Weinstein's Cyst

   B). Implications

II. Should Neuroscience Results be Used to Change Laws?
   A). Hypothetical scenarios and punishment

   -Results

   -Implications

   B). Determining what one is thinking

   -Results

   -Implications

III. Determining Responsibility
   A). Using Brain Imaging to decrease responsibility

   1. Bobby Joe Long

   2. Roper vs. Simmons

   B). Should neuroscience results be used to change the law?
1. Pro:
Greene and Cohen: people don't freely choose to act immorally - so they shouldn't be punished

- Law should be changed: from punishment to deterrence, redefine insanity as merely knowledge of right vs. wrong

2. Con:
Morse: "Brains don't commit crimes, people commit crimes"
- biological causes are not excusing conditions, any more than environment

3. What if, however, "intentions, reasons shown to be post-hoc rationalizations- just the brain explaining to you what you have already done". In other words, Brain controls behavior, without free will

   Libet experiments:

IV. Reading Minds

   A). Lie Detection Technology

1. Brain fingerprinting: p300 activity

2. Guilty Knowledge Test

   B). Implications

1. Invasion of privacy & self-incrimination issues

2. Freedom of Thought: will we punish thoughts, not waiting for action?

3. Selection of Jurors: I.A.T and bias

   Phelps results:

   - Does brain activity accurately predict behavior?
     - White police officer shooting black youth: hard-wired fear of black faces?
V. Minority Report is Here

A). Can we predict future crimes?
- Cesare Lombroso & Biological criminality
- Adrian Raine & psychopaths

B). How would we use information?
- Friend vs Foe scanner
- Aptitude tests and tracking
- Therapeutic justice: TMS to change brains