

Biology 47 – Human Anatomy

West Valley College - Norris

Lecture Outline – Language of Anatomy

I. METHODS OF STUDYING ANATOMY

A. Gross Anatomy - visible to the naked eye

1. Systemic Anatomy
2. Regional Anatomy

B. Microscopic Anatomy - special aids (i.e. microscopes) are required to visualize structures

1. Cytology
2. Histology

C. Specialized Anatomy

1. Medical / Surgical Anatomy
2. Radiographic Anatomy
3. Comparative Anatomy
4. Developmental Anatomy (embryology)

II. AN INTRODUCTION TO BODY SYSTEMS

A. Organization / Three Divisions of the Body

1. Body Wall
2. Body Cavities
3. Organs

B. Major Body Cavities

1. Dorsal Cavity

- a. Cranial Cavity
- b. Spinal Cavity

2. Ventral Cavity

a. Thoracic Cavity

- i. heart (pericardial cavity)
- ii. lungs (pleural cavity)
- iii. mediastinum

b. Abdominopelvic Cavity

- i. abdominal cavity
 - viscera (peritoneal cavity)
- ii. pelvic cavity

3. Serous Membranes

a. General Structure

- i. Serous Cavity
- ii. Serous Fluid
- iii. Visceral Serous Membrane
- iv. Parietal Serous Membrane

b. Specific Serous Membranes

- i. Pericardial Serous Membrane
- ii. Pleural Serous Membranes (2)
- iii. Peritoneal Serous Membrane

III. THE LANGUAGE OF ANATOMY

A. ANATOMIC POSITION (all references to anatomical structures are based on this position):

- Standing upright facing forward, feet together, arms hanging at sides with palms facing forward

B. Surface Anatomy (features that can be distinguished without cutting)

- common names and anatomical terms for many surface landmarks are listed below. You are responsible for all landmarks listed, others will be added to this list as they are used in the context of the course.

1. Cephalic
2. Facial
3. Cranial
4. Cervical
5. Axillary
6. Brachial
7. Antecubital
8. Antebrachial
9. Digits
10. Thoracic
11. Abdomen
12. Pelvis
13. Dorsal
14. Umbilical
15. Femoral
16. Leg
17. Popliteal
18. Dorsum
19. Plantar

C. Directional / Relative Terminology: anatomical terms used to describe the relationship between structures are listed below. You are responsible for all terms listed, others will be added to this list as they are used in the context of the course.

1. Superior (alternately: cranial)
2. Inferior (alternately: caudal)
3. Anterior (alternately: ventral)
4. Posterior (alternately: dorsal)
5. Medial
6. Lateral
7. Proximal
8. Distal
9. Superficial
10. Deep
11. Supine
12. Prone
13. Contralateral
14. Ipsilateral

IV. Additional Key Terms

anatomy physiology