Chapter 1: The Human Body
Study Terms

Section 1: Introduction

Anatomy
the study of the structure and organization of the body

Pathology
the study of diseases of the body

Physiology
the study of the functions of the body parts

Section 2: Terms of Direction

Anterior
toward the front

Caudal
synonymous with inferior; toward the tail

Cephalad
toward the head

Cranial
another name for cephalad

Distal
away from the point of attachment or origin

Dorsal
toward the back

Inferior
lowermost or below

Lateral
toward the side or away from the midline of the body

Medial
nearest the midline of the body

Posterior
toward the back

Proximal
nearest the point of attachment or origin

Superior
uppermost or above

Ventral
the belly side

Section 3: Planes
**Coronal**
synonymous with frontal

**Frontal**
plane dividing anterior and posterior portions of the body at right angles to the sagittal plane

**Horizontal**
plane dividing the body into superior and inferior portions

**Midsagittal**
plane vertically dividing the body into equal right and left portions

**Sagittal**
any plane parallel to the midsagittal or median plane vertically dividing the body into unequal left and right portions

**Transverse**
plane dividing the body into superior and inferior portions

**Viscera**
the organs of a cavity

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**Section 4: Cavities**

**Abdominopelvic cavity**
second subdivision of the ventral cavity that contains the kidneys, stomach, liver and gallbladder, small and large intestines, spleen, pancreas and the ovaries and uterus (in women)

**Cranial cavity**
cavity containing the brain

**Mediastinum**
the space between the lungs

**Parietal**
refers to the walls of a cavity

**Pericardial cavity**
space between the epicardium of the heart and the inner layer of the pericardial sac

**Pleural cavity**
small space between the pleural membranes

**Spinal cavity**
cavity containing the spinal cord

**Thoracic cavity**
first subdivision of the ventral cavity that is surrounded by the rib cage and contains the heart and lungs

**Visceral**
refers to the covering of an organ

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**Section 5: Structural Units**

**Connective tissue**
a type of tissue that supports or binds
**Digestive system**
consists of the alimentary canal with its associated glands

**Endocrine system**
consists of the endocrine glands

**Epithelial tissue**
type of tissue that protects, absorbs or secretes

**Integumentary system**
consists of the epidermis and dermis and the appendages of the skin

**Lateral**
toward the side or away from the midline of the body

**Lymphatic system**
consists of the lymph nodes, thymus gland, spleen and the lymphatic vessels

**Muscle tissue**
tissue that can shorten and thicken or contract

**Muscular system**
consists of muscles, fasciae, tendon sheaths and bursae

**Nervous system**
consists of the brain, spinal cord, cranial nerves, peripheral nerves and the sensory and motor structures of the body

**Nervous tissue**
a type of tissue that transmits impulses

**Protoplasm**
the liquid part of a cell

**Reproductive system**
consists of the ovaries, uterine tubes, uterus and vagina in the female; the testes, vas deferens, seminal vesicles, prostate gland, penis and urethra in the male

**Respiratory system**
consists of nasal cavities, pharynx, larynx, trachea, bronchi and lungs

**Skeletal system**
composed of bones, cartilage and the membranous structures associated with bones

**Urinary system**
consists of two kidneys, two ureters, urinary bladder and urethra


**Section 6: Homeostasis**

**Homeostasis**
maintaining the body’s internal environment