

DNH 115 – Anatomy of the Head and Neck

Spring 2026 – Syllabus

Institution: Virginia Western Community College

School: Dental Hygiene

Course Number and Title: DNH 115 - Anatomy of the Head and Neck

Curriculum Level: Undergraduate (A.A.S. Dental Hygiene) Year 1 Dental Hygiene

Course Credit Hours: Three (3) Hours

Location: VWCC, Fralin Building, HP 128

Meeting Day and Time: Wednesdays from 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (EST)

Course Description and Purpose

This course provides an in-depth study of the anatomical structures of the head and neck with emphasis on their clinical relevance in healthcare settings. Students will explore skeletal, muscular, vascular, glandular, and neural components, as well as anatomical variations and pathological considerations. This is a non-laboratory, non-clinical, didactic course with no hands-on or psychomotor components.

Course Prerequisites

BIO 141, BIO 142, and SDV 101 CPR American Heart Association Basic Life Support for Health Care Providers; Acceptance to the Dental Hygiene, A.A.S. Program; Evidence of completion of Dental Hygiene, A.A.S. Program required documents.

About the Instructor

Instructor: Joan D. Bryant, BSDH, RDH

Office: VWCC, Fralin Building, HP 121

Office Hours: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM;

Tuesdays 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM and Fridays 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Office Phone Number: 540-857-7607

Email: jbryant@viriniawestern.edu

Instructor Email Policy

E-mail: jbryant@virginiawestern.edu (Preferred Contact Method)

Students must have a working knowledge of the VCCS e-mail system to communicate with the course instructor, clinical faculty, and peers. Please utilize correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation. When communicating via e-mail, include the course number (DNH 115) and a statement of the purpose of your e-mail in the subject line. While I will try to respond to your email quickly, please allow me at least 24 hours to respond on weekdays and 48 hours on the weekends. E-mails sent after 5:00 PM will likely get a response the following day. Please note that emails sent over the weekend will be addressed on Monday.

Methods of Delivery

In-person (face-to-face)

This on-campus, face-to-face course incorporates a variety of instructional methods, including lectures, PowerPoint presentations, guided discussions, videos, case-based learning, visual aids, structured reading assignments, and internet-based activities. Course materials and resources will be housed in the Canvas learning management system provided by VWCC. This course does not include laboratory or clinical components.

Required Textbook

Fehrenbach, M. J. (2026). *Illustrated anatomy of the head and neck* (7th ed.). Elsevier.
ISBN: 9780443124426

Supplemental Readings

“Anatomical variations & clinical correlations” - located in Modules - Week 5

“Nerve pathways; trigeminal nerve; pathology” - located in Modules - Week 12

Recommended Texts

Drake, R. L., Vogl, A. W., & Mitchell, A. W. M. (Year). *Gray's Anatomy for Students* (5th ed.). Elsevier

Methods of Evaluation

Throughout the semester, student progress toward the course goals and learning objectives will be evaluated through a range of activities, including Knowledge Check-ins (KC), classroom

assessments, midterm exam, and a final exam. All of these activities will be graded. There will also be a participation grade.

	Week of Assessment	List of Graded Assessments
1	Week 4	Skull Bones Assessment - Identifies major skull bones and landmarks
2	Week 6	Muscle Function Concept Map Assessment - Creates a concept map linking muscles to their actions and relationships.
3	Week 11	Cranial Nerve Mnemonic Creation Assessment - Students label each cranial nerve and its primary pathway on a diagram.
4	Week 12	Nerve Route String Assessment: Students “trace” nerves with colored string on skull models
5	Week 14	Lymph Node Palpation Mini-Lab; Drainage Pathway Mapping Assessment - Students map lymphatic drainage routes on a diagram

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Use Policy:

The use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) is strictly prohibited for all assignments, Knowledge Check-ins, and exams in this course unless explicitly authorized by the instructor. Coursework is designed to assess your individual knowledge, critical thinking, and professional judgment; reliance on AI undermines these objectives and will be considered an academic integrity violation. VCCS-approved platforms (Google Gemini, Microsoft Copilot, and NotebookLM) may be used only for limited study support, such as clarifying concepts or creating personal study tools, and not for graded work. Students may not upload course materials, recorded lectures, PowerPoints, or any proprietary content into any AI platform, nor may they enter patient information under any circumstances. All course content is the intellectual property of Virginia Western Community College and may not be copied or disseminated.

Testing Protocol

Tests may assess content from lectures, assigned readings, PowerPoint presentations, and all materials included in the Canvas course Modules. All tests and exams will be administered in the classroom through Canvas unless a student has arranged approved accommodations with the Testing Center. Testing Center appointments must be scheduled at least 48 hours in advance. Respondus LockDown Browser is required for all assessments, whether completed in the classroom or in the Testing Center.

Grading Criteria

Assignment Weights

Assignment	Weighted
Homework Assignments	20%
“Knowledge Check-ins”/Quizzes	30%
Midterm	20%
Final Exam	20%
Participation	10%
Total Grade	100%

Grading Scale

Percentage	Letter Grade
93-100%	A
85-92%	B
77-84%	C
69-76%	D
≤ 68%	F

Review of Opportunities for Tests and Exams

Exams will be available for review **immediately after submission** and will not be reopened at any other time. If, after reviewing an exam or any other graded assignment, a student has a question or concern regarding a grade, the student has **three (3) days** from the date the grade is posted to contest it.

All grade concerns related to **assignments, quizzes, or exams** must be submitted to the course instructor **via email within three (3) days**. Requests submitted after this timeframe will not be considered.

When contesting a grade, students must:

- Clearly identify the **specific question or item** in question
- Provide a **rationale** for their answer
- Cite **supporting course material** (e.g., PowerPoint slides, textbook, lecture notes)

The student will forfeit their right to contest a grade if they fail to submit the concerns in writing or within the specified period.

Grading Policies

Students must meet all aspects of this course to receive a grade. Students must achieve a grade of ≥ 77 to achieve the learner objectives successfully and progress to the Summer Semester. In addition to your overall grade, you must earn tests, midterm and exam average of ≥ 77 to pass.

Students are expected to monitor their own progress in the course by maintaining a record of their exams, quizzes, lab, activity, and assignment grades. If progress falls below a "C" level, the student is expected to seek help from the course instructor.

Students will have the opportunity to review their exam immediately after submission. No additional exam review opportunities will be provided.

Assignments, quizzes, and exam grades will **not be rounded** during the semester. All grades will be recorded to **three decimal places**.

At the end of the course, your **overall exam average** and **final course grade** will be rounded:

- Final grades are rounded to the **nearest whole percent**.
- If the decimal is **0.5 or higher, it rounds up**.
- If the decimal is **below 0.5, it rounds down**.
 - Example:
 - 89.45 is recorded as 89.4 for all evaluation scores
 - 89.4% rounds to 89% for the course grade
 - 89.5% rounds to 90% for the course grade

Students must be familiar with how their grade is determined and seek help anytime their overall progress in this course falls below the “C” level.

Gradebook: The college LMS (learning management system) for this program/course is Canvas. Canvas shows grades and scores throughout the course via a “gradebook.” Students can see their progression via the “total course grade” column in the gradebook.

Academic Integrity

- The dental hygiene program of Virginia Western Community College enforces a zero-tolerance policy concerning academic misconduct. Immediate dismissal from the program occurs if it is determined that an academic honesty breach has occurred. Students may avail themselves of the appeals process outlined in the 2025– 2026 Student Guidelines and Procedures Manual.
- Examples of Academic Misconduct:
 - Cheating on exam or quiz
 - Giving or receiving information. This includes both synchronous and asynchronous exams.
 - Copying information for graded assignments
 - Using unauthorized material or collaboration during tests
 - Buying, selling, or stealing exams
 - Substituting for another person
 - Plagiarism: familiarize yourself with Little Brown Handbook’s “Avoiding Plagiarism and Documenting Sources.”
 - Submission of work other than your own for assignments
 - Falsifying documentation

- Collusion with another person in submitting work for credit in class/lab

Attendance Policy

- Classroom attendance and participation are vital to your success as a student.
- Attendance is an expectation, not an option.
- If you cannot attend class, you must notify your instructor & site coordinator before class time, citing the reason for the absence.
- If you expect to be absent, briefly state the reason for your absence and your plan of action for acquiring course information missed. “I won’t be in today” is not considered an excuse.
- It is the discretion of the faculty to determine whether an absence is excused or unexcused.
- Absences due to illness may require a doctor’s note the day you return to campus

Missed Tests/Exam Policy

Exam Administration and Make-Up Procedures

All exams, including make-up exams, will be administered on campus. Students will complete exams either in the classroom during a scheduled time or in the VWCC Testing Center if approved accommodations have been arranged. Any adjustments to the exam schedule will be communicated in advance.

- Excused Absences:
 - Students with an excused absence on the day of an exam must take the make-up exam on the first day they are able to return to campus.
- Unexcused Absences:
 - Students with an unexcused absence must also take the exam on the first day they are able to return to campus; however, the highest possible grade they may earn is a 90.
 - Failure to take the exam on the first eligible day will result in a zero.

Submitting Assignments Policy

All assignments must be submitted in Canvas by the date and time indicated for each activity. Unless otherwise noted, assignments are due **by 12:00 PM (one hour before class)** on the assigned due date. Please follow all formatting and submission instructions provided in each assignment.

If you experience any issues submitting your work, email me **immediately**. You may also contact the Help Desk for technical support at **540-857-7354**

Late Assignment Policy

- All assignments, quizzes, and exams will be completed through Canvas.
- Homework and additional assignments will have clearly posted due dates.
- Assignments submitted after the deadline will incur a 10% deduction per day, based on the highest possible grade.
- Failure to submit an assignment, quiz, or exam by the deadline will result in a zero.
- All course assignments must be completed by the end of the semester to earn a passing grade. No exceptions will be made.

Student Conduct and Expectations

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a respectful, professional, and polite manner during class, lab, and patient clinics. When communicating via e-mail, discussion board, face-to-face, or voicemail, students are expected to correspond with respect and civility.

Computer and Cell Phone Use

Laptops and tablets may be used during lectures **for note-taking purposes only**. All phones must remain silenced throughout class. During tests and exams, laptops may be used **only with Respondus LockDown Browser**, and all phones and tablets must be powered off and stored out of sight.

General Computer and Technical Requirements

Hardware Requirements

Students are required to bring a fully charged laptop to class for all in-class tests and exams. A power cord must also be brought to ensure the device remains functional throughout the

assessment period. Students must connect to VWCC's Wi-Fi and launch Respondus LockDown Browser prior to the start of the test or exam.

Unless specified by the course instructor, Electronic Communication Devices may not be used during class, tests, or quizzes. Use of an electronic communication device without instructor approval will result in dismissal from the classroom. Using an electronic communication device during a test will result in dismissal from the testing center/classroom and a zero for the test.

The Testing Center will provide a computer for students who are scheduled to complete assessments there.

Software Requirements

Students should have a working knowledge of the VCCS Canvas course management system. Respondus Lockdown Browser is required to complete some assignments. Click on the link for Respondus Lockdown Browser use and download guidelines <http://www.virginiawestern.edu/learning/elit/students/docs/RespondusLockdownBrowserStudent.pdf> Mozilla Firefox is the recommended browser when working in Canvas. All course materials, assignments, and announcements are posted through Canvas

Important Additional VWCC & Dental Hygiene School Statements: Statement of Student Responsibilities and Accountabilities:

Student Rights and Responsibilities

Virginia Western Community College is an institution dedicated to academic integrity. As such, the college expects students to share the responsibility of maintaining an honest academic environment to protect the integrity of the courses and the institution.

By applying for admission to the College, for both credit and non-credit programs, each student agrees to abide by the policies and procedures governing academic integrity. The statement below outlines the rights each student has as a member of the college community as well as the responsibilities each student must uphold to continue within that community.

Each student has the privilege of exercising their rights without fear of prejudice, provided they respect the laws of the Commonwealth, the policies of Virginia Western, and the rights of others on campus. These rights include the following:

- Students are free to pursue their educational goals. Appropriate opportunities for learning in the classroom and on campus are provided through the curricula offered by the college.
- Students are afforded due process. No disciplinary sanctions may be imposed without due process, except as provided in the Academic Integrity Policy below.
- Students' academic performance shall be evaluated fairly by the instructors of the respective courses.

Each student, as a responsible adult, shall maintain standards of conduct appropriate to membership in the college community. Such responsibilities include the following:

- Each student must demonstrate respect for themselves, as well as for faculty, staff, and fellow students.
- Each student must know, understand, and abide by the regulations and policies of the college.
- Each student must maintain academic integrity and abide by the academic integrity policy of the college.

Attendance

Purpose

The faculty of the college expects each student to participate in scheduled classes on a routine basis and to be punctual. Registration in a course presupposes that students will participate in scheduled classes and laboratory sessions.

Policy

- Class attendance is expected of all students at Virginia Western Community College. If a student does not attend at least one class meeting or participate in an online learning class by the last day to drop with a tuition refund (census), his/her class registration will be administratively deleted. This means that there will be no record of the class or any letter grade on the student's transcripts. Furthermore, the student's class load will be reduced by the course credits, and this may affect his/her full-time or part-time student status. Tuition will not be refunded.

- If a student is dropped from a course before the last day to add a class, the student may continue to attend class while the situation is resolved. If the student is not on the roster after the last day to add the class, the student may not remain in the class. Instructors should check SIS class rosters daily during the drop/add period.
- If a student is on the roster and withdraws prior to the withdrawal deadline, but after the last day to drop for a tuition refund (census), that student may continue to attend the class through the end of the semester at the discretion of the instructor.
- When absence from a class becomes necessary, it is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor prior to the absence. The policy on attendance and make-up examinations is the prerogative of each instructor. Instructors will provide students with a statement of their attendance policy during the first class meeting and in the course syllabus.
- This policy does not apply to non-credit (workforce) courses.

Meeting Established Deadlines

All course-related academic work must be submitted according to the instructions provided by the course director and by the posted due dates. Assignments submitted after the deadline will incur a grade penalty. Students are strongly encouraged to keep a backup copy of all submitted work.

Honor Code

Virginia Western Community College is committed to fostering an environment of academic integrity, personal responsibility, and ethical conduct. All students are expected to uphold the highest standards of honesty in their academic work and behavior.

Honor Code Statement

As a student of Virginia Western Community College, I affirm that:

- I will complete all assignments, quizzes, tests, and exams with honesty and integrity.
- I will not give, receive, or use unauthorized assistance on any academic work.
- I will not engage in plagiarism, fabrication, cheating, or any form of academic dishonesty.
- I will respect the learning environment, my instructors, and my peers by conducting myself responsibly and ethically.
- I understand that violations of the Honor Code may result in academic penalties, disciplinary action, or referral to the appropriate college office.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism, of special concern to the English Department, is using the ideas or language of another person so that these seem to be the writer's own ideas or language. The

students' grammar and usage handbook states that plagiarism, whether deliberate or accidental, includes the following:

- Presenting a summary or paraphrase of another writer's ideas without giving credit to that writer.
- Copying another's material and presenting it as one's own—even materials as brief as a phrase within a sentence—without quotation marks and proper documentation.
- Using the sentence structure, diction, or order of ideas from another source.
- Submitting as one's own any material one has solicited (or allowed) anyone else to write (or dictate), or that has been acquired (or purchased) from any course, including the Internet.
- Submitting as one's own any paper that has been significantly revised or edited by another, including other students, parents, acquaintances, or professionals, such as tutoring agencies outside the College. (The staff of the VWCC Writing Center has been trained to help with specific writing problems without unduly influencing the final evaluation of a paper.)
- Falsifying documentation.

Consequences of Plagiarism

Unintentional plagiarism, depending on circumstances, may result in rewriting, failure of an assignment, or failure of a class. Intentional plagiarism will result in any of the procedures explained in the [*Student Conduct Policy*](#), from failure of the assignment or course to suspension or expulsion from the College. The College has a site license with SafeAssign.com, a service that allows instructors to detect Internet plagiarism. Other services are available that can match a student's writing "fingerprint" with suspected plagiarized passages in essays to determine if those passages are indeed the student's own work. Most English instructors at VWCC will ask their students to submit their essays to SafeAssign.com as part of their class requirements.

Code of Student Conduct

This Student Code of Conduct outlines the expectations of students enrolled at Virginia Western Community College. Students are subject to college jurisdiction, meaning it is expected that the Conduct Code be maintained while a student at the college. By enrolling, students agree to adhere to college policies and contribute to a respectful academic environment. The college reserves the right to take disciplinary action against any student whose conduct, in the opinion of college representatives, adversely affects the college's pursuit of its educational objectives. Students who are involved in the conduct process should expect any sanctions imposed to be enforced at all college campuses and centers.

The Code of Conduct shall apply both to the conduct of individual students as well as student organizations. Each recognized student organization's activities and the activities of its members will not violate federal, state, or local law; or the college's Code of Conduct.

The Code of Conduct applies to all student activities within the college, VCCS, or their foundations' programs or activities wherever located. The Code of Conduct also applies to all student conduct occurring on the college campus and on any property owned, leased, or operated by the college, VCCS, or their foundations. The Code of Conduct additionally applies to any property used as a student residence and in regard to which students have expressly agreed to abide by or provided written consent to be governed by college policies. The Code of Conduct also applies to acts of misconduct or criminal acts that are not committed on college property if the acts arise from college activities that are being conducted off the college's campuses, or if the conduct undermines the security of the college community or the integrity of the educational process or poses a serious threat to self or others.

Student Responsibility

Students are responsible for understanding what constitutes academic dishonesty and for seeking clarification from the instructor when expectations are unclear. Ignorance of the policy does not excuse violations.

Instructor Responsibility

Instructors will clearly communicate expectations for academic work, uphold the principles of academic integrity, and report violations in accordance with college procedures.

Community Commitment

By enrolling at Virginia Western Community College, students become part of a community built on trust, respect, and accountability. Upholding the Honor Code strengthens that community and supports a fair and meaningful educational experience for all.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is one of the cornerstones of education. Virginia Western Community College expects all members of its academic community to share in the responsibility of maintaining an honest academic environment to protect the integrity of our courses and the credentials awarded by the college. Students are expected to do their own work and submit assignments that reflect their own knowledge, skills, and abilities. Academic integrity requires members of the community to engage honestly, ethically, and responsibly in their academic endeavors.

The expectations outlined below reflect our shared values and provide examples of behaviors that uphold or violate those principles. While this list is not exhaustive, it offers important guidance.

1. Demonstrate authentic knowledge and understanding on all assignments. Exams, quizzes, tests, and assigned work are how learning outcomes are measured and should represent true skills and abilities. Using or accessing unauthorized materials creates an unfair advantage and is not permitted. Taking an exam or completing coursework on behalf of someone else, or having someone else complete the work, is a serious breach of trust.
2. Collaborate only with approval. Teamwork and peer learning are encouraged when permitted, but unauthorized collaboration misrepresents individual contributions. Collaboration is only allowed when explicitly authorized by the instructor. Giving or receiving unauthorized assistance undermines the integrity of the assessment process.
3. Submit original and unique work for each assignment. Copying from others without permission is not aligned with our values of honesty and fairness. Reusing substantial parts of previously submitted work is not allowed unless approved by the current instructor.
4. Give credit where it's due. Plagiarism—whether intentional or unintentional—includes:
 - Using someone else's exact words without proper quotation and citation.
 - Presenting another's ideas or structure in your own words without attribution.
 - Submitting someone else's work as if it were your own.
5. Use technology ethically. AI tools and other automated writing or coding aids should only be used as permitted by the instructor. Understanding whether a technology being considered for an assignment is appropriate is a shared responsibility – ask the instructor in advance.
6. Provide accurate information. Falsifying any documentation or data violates the standards of academic honesty.
7. Act with integrity, even when others do not – speak up. If you are aware of academic misconduct, you have a duty to report it to help uphold the integrity of our learning community.

Accommodations

General Accessibility Statement

Your ability to fully participate in this course matters. If you experience any issues accessing course content, activities, or technology, please contact your instructor promptly so they can assist in resolving the problem. Accessibility is a shared responsibility, and your feedback helps ensure that all students can participate fully.

Disability and Pregnancy Accommodations

Virginia Western Community College (VWCC) is committed to ensuring equitable access to learning for all students. If you anticipate or encounter any barriers to learning in this course, please discuss these concerns with your instructor.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, VWCC provides reasonable accommodations to qualified students with documented disabilities. Disabilities may include, but are not limited to, learning, mental health, sensory, physical, chronic medical conditions, pregnancy, and childbirth-related medical issues.

Students with documented disabilities, including pregnant or parenting students, may request reasonable accommodation(s) for this course by contacting the Office of Disability Services (ODS). For more information about ODS, including how to apply for services, please visit the ODS website. Or contact:

Office of Disability Services

Strauss Family Student Life Center
2nd Floor- Suite S207

Hillary M. Holland, LPC Disability Counselor/ADA Coordinator
hholland@viriniawestern.edu
(540) 857-6488

Emily G. Scott Student Accessibility Specialist
egscott@viriniawestern.edu
(540) 857-6567

If you have already been approved for accommodations through ODS, please ensure that you send your Accommodation Access Plans (AP) to your instructor and arrange a time to discuss your plan. You can access your AP through Accommodate.

To ensure timely support, please submit your AP and make any accommodation requests as soon as possible.

Title IX Statement

Virginia Western Community College is committed to creating a safe and supportive environment for all students, faculty, and staff. In compliance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the college strictly prohibits sex-based discrimination in any program, activity, admission process, or employment practice.

Prohibited conduct includes, but is not limited to:

- Sexual harassment
- Sexual assault
- Stalking
- Domestic or dating violence
- Discrimination based on pregnancy, parenting status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or related circumstances

The college encourages anyone who experiences or witnesses such conduct to seek support or report concerns. For more information or to file a report, please visit the Title IX webpage.

Title IX Contacts

- Title IX Coordinator- Bernadette Battle, Vice President of Student Affairs
 - o Chapman Hall, Room 102A
 - o 540-857-6572
 - o TitleIX@viriniawestern.edu
- Deputy Title IX Coordinator for Students- Hillary Holland,

Disability Counselor/ADA Coordinator
 o Student Life Center, Room S207
 o 540-857-6488
 o TitleIX@viriniawestern.edu

- Deputy Title IX Coordinator for Employees- Jennifer Pittman, Associate Vice President of Human Resources
 - o Fishburn Hall, Room F003
 - o 540-857-7677
 - o TitleIX@viriniawestern.edu

Counseling Services

Virginia Western Community College provides on-campus behavioral health support through its **Behavioral Health and Wellness Advocate**, who serves as a resource for students, faculty, and staff. This service is designed to promote student well-being, safety, and academic success.

Services Available

The Behavioral Health and Wellness Advocate is available to:

- Provide support and advocacy for students attending VWCC

- Assist students experiencing crisis and help develop individualized plans for stabilization and success
- Conduct behavioral assessments and provide appropriate interventions
- Offer consultation and support to faculty and staff regarding student concerns
- Provide support, assistance, and advocacy to veterans and military-affiliated students
- Make referrals to community resources for students with behavioral health or other needs
- Monitor student conduct concerns and assist in facilitating successful resolutions
- Serve on the college's Threat Assessment Team and the Campus Assessment Response & Evaluation (CARE) Team

Contact Information

Kimberly Stafford, LPC, NCC

Behavioral Health and Wellness Advocate

Student Center, Room S207E

kstafford@virginiawestern.edu

540-857-6711

Students are encouraged to reach out for support whenever personal, emotional, or behavioral challenges arise that may affect their well-being or academic performance.

Professional Policy

Professional Verbal Communication: Students will be able to articulate concepts in a professional manner.

- Always demonstrates clear, organized, and appropriate language when speaking and interacting with instructors, peers, patients, and/or members of the community.

Professional Written Communication: students will be able to write professional communications.

- Always compose professionally worded and formatted written correspondence (emails, memos, discussion boards, lab reports, patient charts, business plans, papers, etc.).

****An infraction in one of the above-stated areas will result in a one-point deduction from the final grade per occurrence.**

Social Media Policy

Students in the Dental Hygiene Program are expected to engage in responsible social conduct that reflects credit upon the college. Dental Hygiene students are required to abide by the American Dental Hygienists' Association Code of Ethics, which is based on the profession's standards and core values. Implicit in this statement is the "good citizen" use of social media platforms (including but not limited to Twitter, Snapchat, Instagram, text messages, video, and social media sites).

Members of the Department of Dental Hygiene should strive to exemplify the following ideals:

- Respect the rights and property of others.
- Be open to others' opinions.
- Treat each person with dignity and respect and refrain from intimidation and illegal discrimination.
- Value and learn from the uniqueness of each person.

Before posting on social media sites, consider the following:

- Recognize your audience may interpret your posting(s) differently than you intended.
- Refrain from "friending" patients or persons in a supervisory role.
- Posting can last forever.

Important Dates

- January 19 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – College Closed
- January 20 - Classes Begin
- January 25 - Last Day to Register – Full Session
- February 6 - Last day to drop with refund
- March 14 – 22 - Spring Break
- April 2 - Last day to drop w/o grade penalty
- May 8 - Last day of classes
- May 9 – 14 - Final Exam

General Course Objectives

At the completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Identify the major anatomical structures of the head and neck.
2. Explain the functions of head and neck structures and their interactions.
3. Differentiate the cranial nerves by their functions.
4. Trace the flow of blood to and from the head and neck.
5. Explain the protective role of lymphatic structures in the head and neck.
6. Summarize the embryological development of the head and neck.
7. Compare normal anatomical variations among individuals.
8. Recognize common pathologies affecting the head and neck.
9. Apply anatomical knowledge to dental and medical procedures.
10. Determine appropriate sites for local anesthesia using anatomical landmarks.
11. Describe anatomical locations and structures using the correct anatomical terminology.
12. Commit to safe and effective patient care through competent knowledge of oral anatomy.

Specific Objectives By Chapter and Topic

Learning Objectives

Upon completion of each instructional unit, the student should be able to:

Chapter 1; “Introduction to head and neck anatomy”:

1. Define key anatomical terms presented in the chapter.
2. Explain the clinical relevance of head and neck anatomy to dental practice.
3. Identify reference planes and sectional orientations used in anatomic description.
4. Apply correct anatomic nomenclature in dental contexts.
5. Explain common anatomical variations of head and neck structures.

Chapter 2; “Surface anatomy”:

1. Define key anatomic terms presented in the chapter.
2. Explain how facial and neck surface anatomy affects dental procedures.
3. Identify head and neck regions and surface landmarks on diagrams and patients.
4. Apply surface-anatomy knowledge to clinical dental procedures.
5. Explain how variations in facial and neck surface features influence patient assessment and treatment planning.

Chapter 3; “Skeletal system”:

1. Define key anatomical terms presented in the chapter.
2. Identify head and neck bones and landmarks on diagrams, skulls, and patients.
3. Describe the major landmarks of the maxilla and mandible.
4. Explain skeletal pathologies affecting the head and neck.
5. Apply skeletal anatomy knowledge to the study of head and neck structures and clinical care.

Chapter 4; “Muscular system”:

1. Define key and anatomical terms presented in the chapter.
2. Identify head and neck muscles on diagrams, skulls, and patients.
3. Describe the origin, insertion, action, and innervation of each muscle.
4. Explain the anatomical basis of mastication, speech, and swallowing.
5. Explain muscle-related pathologies of the head and neck.
6. Apply muscular-anatomy knowledge to clinical dental procedures.

Chapter 5; “Temporomandibular joint”:

1. Define key anatomical terms presented in the chapter.
2. Identify temporomandibular joint (TMJ) landmarks on diagrams, skulls, and patients.
3. Describe TMJ movements and their relationship to head and neck musculature.

4. Explain TMJ pathologies and related patient-care considerations.
5. Apply TMJ anatomy knowledge to clinical dental practice.

Chapter 6; “Vascular system”:

1. Define key and anatomical terms presented in the chapter.
2. Trace the major blood vessels of the head and neck on diagrams, skulls, and patients.
3. Explain vascular pathologies of the head and neck.
4. Apply vascular-system knowledge to clinical dental practice.
5. Explain how variations in head and neck blood vessels can affect dental injections, surgical procedures, and patient safety.

Chapter 7; “Glandular tissue”:

1. Define key and anatomical terms presented in the chapter.
2. Identify head and neck glands and associated structures on diagrams, skulls, and patients.
3. Explain glandular pathologies affecting the head and neck.
4. Apply glandular anatomy knowledge to clinical dental care.
5. Explain how variations in glandular structure and function influence patient symptoms, diagnosis, and treatment planning.

Chapter 8; “Nervous system”:

1. Define key and anatomical terms presented in the chapter.
2. Describe components and functions of the nervous system.
3. Explain the divisions of the central and peripheral nervous systems.
4. Trace cranial nerve pathways on diagrams and skulls.
5. Identify structures innervated by each cranial nerve.
6. Trace nerve pathways to the oral cavity on diagrams, skulls, and patients.
7. Identify structures innervated by head and neck nerves.
8. Explain nervous-system pathologies of the head and neck.
9. Apply neural-anatomy knowledge to clinical dental practice.

Chapter 9; “Anatomy of local anesthesia”:

1. Define key anatomical terms presented in the chapter.
2. List tissues anesthetized by each local anesthesia injection and their target areas.
3. Identify anatomical structures used to determine injection sites on skulls and patients.
4. Demonstrate correct needle placement for each injection on skulls and patients.

5. Trace tissues traversed during needle insertion for each injection.
6. Explain indicators of effective anesthesia and complications related to anatomical factors.
7. Apply trigeminal-nerve and tissue-anatomy knowledge to administering local anesthesia.

Chapter 10; “Anatomy of local anesthesia”:

1. Define key and anatomical terms presented in the chapter.
2. Describe the components and functions of the lymphatic system.
3. Identify head and neck lymph nodes on diagrams and patients.
4. Identify head and neck tonsils on diagrams and patients.
5. Trace lymphatic drainage patterns of the head and neck.
6. Explain lymphoid-tissue pathologies affecting the head and neck.
7. Apply lymphatic-system knowledge to clinical dental practice.

Chapter 11; “Fasciae and spaces”:

1. Define key anatomical terms presented in the chapter.
2. Identify head and neck fasciae on diagrams, skulls, and patients.
3. Identify major head and neck spaces on diagrams, skulls, and patients.
4. Explain communication pathways between major fascial spaces.
5. Apply knowledge of fasciae and spaces to anatomical study and clinical dental practice.

Chapter 12; “Spread of infection”:

1. Define key anatomical terms presented in the chapter.
2. Explain the pathways of odontogenic infection spread through sinuses, vasculature, lymphatics, and fascial spaces.
3. Trace routes of odontogenic infection on diagrams, skulls, and patients.
4. Explain complications resulting from the spread of odontogenic infection.
5. Describe methods to prevent infection spread during dental treatment.
6. Apply anatomic knowledge of infection spread to clinical dental practice.

Syllabus Course Schedule

Semester Week Number	Day/Dates/Times of the Week	Chapter and Topics	Creative Classroom Assessments, Assignments, Quizzes, and Exams
Week 1	Wednesday, 1/21/26 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	Ch. 1 - Course intro; terminology; planes; anatomical language	Anatomy Term Matching Relay (Active Classroom Challenge) Syllabus Quiz and Week 1 *Knowledge Check-in" Due at 12:00 PM on 1/28/26
Week 2	Wednesday, 1/28/26 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	Ch. 2 - Facial & neck surface anatomy	Surface Anatomy Mapping on Manikins Week 2 *Knowledge Check-in" Due at 12:00 PM on 2/4/26
Week 3	Wednesday, 2/4/26 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	Ch. 3 (Part 1) - Skull bones overview	Anatomy Puzzle Assignment Week 3 *Knowledge Check-in" Due at 12:00 PM on 2/11/26
Week 4	Wednesday, 2/11/26 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	Ch. 3 (Part 2) - Maxilla, mandible, skeletal pathology	Skull Bones Assessment Week 4 *Knowledge Check-in" Due at 12:00 PM on 2/18/26
Week 5	Wednesday, 2/18/26 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	Ch. 4 (Part 1) Additional Reading in Modules - Week 5 - Muscles: facial expression & mastication	Muscle Motion Activity: Students mimic muscle actions; partners identify Week 5 *Knowledge Check-in" Due at 12:00 PM on 2/25/26
Week 6	Wednesday, 2/25/26 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	Ch. 4 (Part 2) - Muscles: swallowing, speech, pathology	Muscle Function Concept Map Assessment Week 6 *Knowledge Check-in"

			Due at 12:00 PM on 3/4/26
Week 7	Wednesday, 3/4/26 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	Ch. 5 - TMJ anatomy, movement, dysfunction	TMJ Functional Movement Demo: Students model joint movement with props; TMJ Clinical Scenario. Study for midterm that is next week. Week 7 *Knowledge Check-in" Due at 12:00 PM on 3/11/26
Week 8	Wednesday, 3/11/26 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	MIDTERM EXAM (Ch. 1–5)	MIDTERM
Week 9	Wednesday, 3/18/26 VWCC's Spring Break No Class	VWCC's SPRING BREAK	VWCC's SPRING BREAK No assignment
Week 10	Wednesday, 3/25/26 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	Ch. 6 - Vascular system of head & neck and Ch. 7 - Glandular system: salivary glands, ducts, pathology	Salivary Gland Case Pair-Share; Gland Mapping Diagram Week 10 *Knowledge Check-in" Due at 12:00 PM on 4/1/26
Week 11	Wednesday, 4/1/26 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	Ch. 8 (Part 1) - Nervous system overview; cranial nerves	Cranial Nerve Mnemonic Creation Assessment Week 11 *Knowledge Check-in" Due at 12:00 PM on 4/8/26

Week 12	Wednesday, 4/8/26 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	Ch. 8 (Part 2) Additional Reading in Modules - Week 12 - Nerve pathways; trigeminal nerve; pathology	Nerve Route String Assessment: Students “trace” nerves with colored string on skull models Week 12 *Knowledge Check-in” Due at 12:00 PM on 4/15/26
Week 13	Wednesday, 4/15/26 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	Ch. 9 - Local anesthesia anatomy & injection landmarks	Injection Site Simulation Activity (skull models); Target Tissue Identification Game Week 13 *Knowledge Check-in” Due at 12:00 PM on 4/22/26
Week 14	Wednesday, 4/22/26 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	Ch. 10 - Lymphatic system Lymph Node Palpation	Mini-Lab; Drainage Pathway Mapping Assessment” Week 14 *Knowledge Check-in” Due at 12:00 PM on 4/29/26
Week 15	Wednesday, 4/29/26 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	Ch. 11–12 - Fascial spaces; infection spread; complications; prevention	Odontogenic Infection Case Analysis; Spread Pathway Diagram. Study for Final exam for next week. Week 15 *Knowledge Check-in” Due at 12:00 PM on 5/6/26
Week 16	Wednesday, 5/6/26 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	FINAL EXAM (Comprehensive)	FINAL EXAM

***Knowledge Check-ins (KC)**

Knowledge Check-ins are assessed as quizzes. Students may use their notes and may complete each check-in at a time that fits their schedule. All work must be completed **independently** and must reflect the student’s own understanding of the material. **Each Knowledge Check-in is timed for 20 minutes.** All Knowledge Check-ins must be submitted **no later than one hour before the next scheduled lecture.**

Course Disclaimer Statement

Every effort is made to provide a complete and accurate syllabus at the start of the course. However, circumstances may require the instructor to adjust the syllabus during the semester. Any modifications will be based on the needs, progress, and learning experiences of the students.

SYLLABUS COURSE ACTIVITY SHEET

Weeks-Dates	Teacher Lecture	Video Media	Group Work	Partner Work	Individual Work	CODA Competency Alignment	Quiz/Test /Exam
1 - 1/21/26	X		Anatomy Term Matching Relay		Syllabus Quiz + KC 1	2-8; 2-11	Syllabus Quiz; KC 1
2 - 1/28/26	X		Surface Anatomy Mapping on Manikins		KC 2	2-6	KC 2
3 - 2/4/26	X		Anatomy Puzzle Activity		KC 3	2-8	KC 3
4 - 2/11/26	X				Bone Pathology Mini-Case Study + KC 4	2-10	KC 4
5 - 2/18/26	X	Muscle Function Videos	Muscle Motion Activity	Partner Muscle ID	KC 5	2-17	KC 5
6 - 2/25/26	X		Muscle Function Concept Map		KC 6	2-8	KC 6
7 - 3/4/26	X	TMJ Function Media		TMJ Movement Demo	KC 7	2-13	KC 7
8 - 3/11/26	Midterm					Comprehensive	MIDTERM (Ch. 1-5)

	Review						
9 - 3/18/26		Spring Break		Spring Break		Spring Break	
10 - 3/25/26	X	Vascular System Videos Salivary Gland Media	Blood Flow Tracing Activity Salivary Gland Case Pair-Share		KC 9 KC 10	2-12, 2-10	KC 9 KC 10
11 - 4/1/26	X	Cranial Nerve Media		Cranial Nerve Mnemonic Activity	KC 11	2-12	KC 11
12 - 4/8/26	X	Nerve Pathway Media	Nerve Route String Activity		KC 12	2-12	KC 12
13 - 4/15/26	X	Local Anesthesia Technique Videos	Injection Site Simulation Lab	Target Tissue Identification	KC 13	2-12	KC 13
14 - 4/22/26	X	Lymphatic Drainage Media	Lymph Node Palpation Mini-Activity		KC 14	2-6; 2-10	KC 14
15 - 4/29/26	X	Fascial Space Infection Media	Odontogenic Infection Case Analysis		KC 15	2-11; 2-10	KC 15
16 - 5/6/26	Final Exam Review					Comprehensive	FINAL EXAM
TOTAL:	16	9	11	4	14	16	16

