



LAB INFORMATION

This handout contains information about the laboratory/discussion session, which is the Thursday session of the course. The lab/discussion and the weekly lab office hours are an extremely important part of the course. Diligent attention to this part of the course will be important if you want to excel.

Lab/Discussion

Each week, during the Thursday session, you will attend the lab. During the lab time you will have the opportunity to participate in interactive demonstrations of cadaver dissections related to the weeks lecture material. The teaching assistants will introduce you to the materials and help you see how to best learn the information. While you will be exposed to the cadavers in the lab, it will be to your advantage to follow up the lab study by attending the office hour sessions at the labs and studying the cadavers in more detail on your own or with fellow students. Also during the lab period, you will have the opportunity to present and discuss the weekly problem sets. You will receive these at the first of each week (they can be printed from the course website) and it is your responsibility to come with the problems answered and prepared to lead a discussion about them in the lab.

Lab Tips

1. Use the lab. Set aside a time during the posted office hours every week when you can come to the lab for an hour or so to review lab material. This normally is much more enjoyable to do with friends taking the class. If you don't know people in the class, get to know them – especially those in your group.
2. Don't just point out structures that a teaching assistant has already shown you on a particular part in lab. On the practical exam we might use pieces that you have never seen in the lab. Therefore, memorizing a particular prosection isn't always helpful. It's also tempting to just have a teaching assistant show you everything on one of the dissections, but that isn't always the best method. Try to find the structure on your own or with your anatomy buddies. It involves a little more work and looking in books, but when you finally find it, you'll remember it and be able to find it on another piece – and more importantly you will be more likely to be able to identify it on a practical exam. To check yourself, do not hesitate to check your find with a friendly teaching assistant after your search.
3. Come to lab prepared. There are no quizzes at the beginning of lab to force you to know the parts before we start, except during lab two. There is a list of Netter Plates given for each lab that you should study carefully. Coming to lab unprepared usually results in a bad learning experience.
4. Ask questions to the teaching assistants and yourself. Think about anatomy critically. There are usually neat and stimulating answers to "why" and "how" questions that can enhance your desire to learn more.
5. During the lab the teaching assistants will not always be able to cover in detail every structure on the Structures to Identify in Lab list during lab time. You should come in on your own to see these parts. This is especially true of the skulls. Coming to office hours on a regular basis will be very beneficial, as it is impossible to cram for exams and the final practical exam.