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Department: Anatomy

Course: ANA 212

**Assignment**

**The Gross Anatomy of the Female Genitalia**

The female reproductive organs can be divided into the upper genital tract (i.e., uterus, fallopian tubes, ovaries, and cervix) and the lower genital tract (i.e., the vagina and vulva). The upper genital organs and the vagina are located in the pelvis, while the vulva is a part of the perineum. These organs participate in several hormonal and mechanical pathways that are responsible for secondary sexual development and reproduction. The uterine cavity is the site of embryonic implantation and fetal development. The cervix is the lower portion of the uterus and provides a passageway for the expulsion of uterine contents or the entry of spermatozoa into the uterine cavity. The ovaries are paired organs responsible for gametogenesis and sex hormone synthesis in females. In the middle of each menstrual cycle, a mature ovum ruptures out of a Graafian follicle and travels along the fallopian tubes, where it may be fertilized by sperm. The vagina is a hollow muscular structure that receives ejaculate during copulation and serves as a conduit for the expulsion of uterine contents. The vulva is the anterior portion of the perineum and is composed of the labia majora, the labia minora, the clitoris, and the mons pubis. The labia envelop the clitoris, the urethral orifice, and the vaginal introitus.

