

I. Menstrual Cycle

A. Definition = monthly cycle involving the ripening of an ovum and the preparation of the uterus for pregnancy

- 1) Ripened ovum released from ovary = **ovulation**
- 2) Ovum swept into fallopian tube
 - a) fertilized by sperm
 - b) no fertilization, uterine lining shed = **menstruation**
 - blood, uterine fragments flow from vagina
 - cramping

II. Conception

A. Definition = union of ovum and sperm that starts a new individual

- 1) penis ejaculates semen and sperm during intercourse
- 2) sperm swim up vagina, uterus, to fallopian tube
- 3) ovum in F.T. - sperm enters – no others can enter
- 4) ovum implants on uterine wall
 - * ovum live 12-24 hours, sperm live up to 3 days in female reproductive tract