



# Chapter 14 Digestive System

Biology 112

Tri-County Technical College

Pendleton, SC

# Functions of Digestive System

- Digestion is mechanical and chemical breakdown of foods into nutrients that cell membranes can absorb
- System consists of **alimentary canal** (GI tract)
  - Extends from mouth to anus
  - Includes several accessory organs that release secretions into the canal

## Functions, cont.

- Alimentary canal digests food and absorbs fragments through its lining into the blood
- Accessory organs (teeth, tongue, and several large digestive glands) assist the digestive breakdown in several ways
- Digestive system makes nutrition possible
- One could accurately state that a human is a digestive tube with a body built around it