

1135-97-1124 **Manmohan Kaur*** (mkaur@ben.edu), Department of Mathematics, Benedictine University, 5700 College Road, Lisle, IL 60532. *An Undergraduate Number Theory Course in Disguise*. Preliminary report.

In order to get undergraduates interested in mathematics, it is essential to introduce them to interesting and challenging problems in the field. Cryptology, the science of sending and receiving secret messages, encompasses every aspect of modern life – online financial transactions, digital signatures, cloud computing, and so on. The esoteric nature of cryptology makes it naturally interesting to the undergraduates at our liberal arts institution, whereas the same set of students may not choose a more 'abstract sounding' course. In Spring 2004, we started teaching a course entitled 'Introduction to Cryptology', which essentially is a modified number theory course, complete with all the rigor of abstract mathematics. The first few iterations of the course were taught from Rosen's number theory book, while more recently we have moved to other texts. In this presentation, we will discuss this Cryptology course, which has become a popular elective for our both our math majors and math minors. (Received September 19, 2017)