1145-C5-2402   **Oscar Levin*** (`oscar.levin@unco.edu`), University of Northern Colorado, School of Mathematical Sciences, Greeley, CO 80639. *A discrete math course with early graph theory.* Preliminary report.

Where does graph theory belong in the discrete math curriculum? A popular choice (at least consistent with many textbooks) is to include it near the end of an introductory course. While there are good reasons for arranging topics this way, students often find graph theory more interesting and more approachable than other topics, especially counting. Perhaps then, it would be reasonable to start a course by studying graphs to warm up to the more challenging concepts in combinatorics. In this talk I will describe an attempt to use graph theory to motivate both students and the remainder of material in an introductory discrete math and proofs course, and reflect on its efficacy. (Received September 25, 2018)