“Maria Full of Grace” [2004] directed by Joshua Marston and starring Catalina Sandino Moreno [Oscar nominee], mostly in Spanish with English subtitles. In some ways, the film relates to “Dirty Pretty Things” in that it deals with illegal immigration and crime. It also deals with globalization in a variety of ways. What is Maria doing in Colombia that is related to globalization? When she comes to the U.S., is her task another kind of global enterprise? In this case, the woman is the central character and much of the action takes place in the United States. There are some obvious things to consider in the context of a social science class, including the following: How does Maria’s environment in the U.S. differ from what she experienced in Colombia? Are there similarities? Was her family in Colombia living in extreme poverty? Are there citizenship issues? Would you turn Maria in to the authorities? Consider the character in the film who is the go-to guy in the neighborhood for Colombian immigrants. He is played by a man who actually spends his time doing this in the Colombian section of Queens in New York City.

This small independent film was a huge success in many countries, including the U.S. Why do you think this happened?