“REAL WOMEN HAVE CURVES” This 2002 film directed by Patricia Cardoso stars America Ferrera, very familiar as the star of “Ugly Betty” on TV.

The 90-minute film is set primarily in the Mexican-American neighborhood of East Los Angeles and addresses a number of themes that, one way or another, have been addressed in other films seen in this class: Ethnicity, gender roles, social class, immigrants caught between two cultures, the fears of leaving a traditional culture, individual needs and family expectations, the norms of society, education and social mobility, and the like. The central figure, Ana, is the same age as many college students.

But there are other elements as well. While there are a number of \textit{STATUS} issues addressed, the main one is the status of a young woman whose physical appearance does not conform to what many in society—or her own mother—seem to value. This, in turn, raises questions about self-esteem [an overused but still important concept] and identity. A key issue in the film is the attitude of the mother toward the ambitions and values of the daughter. This particular mother seems to be LESS ambivalent than the parents seen in a number of other films. Once again, a useful question to consider is the extent to which the concerns of characters are \textit{universal} or \textit{particular} to the environment shown in the film.