“THE VISITOR,” [2008] directed by Thomas McCarthy and starring Richard Jenkins [the father in “North Country”] and Hiam Abbass, an Arab Israeli actress very well known in Europe and the Middle East. The film focuses on a widowed professor [who is also burnt-out and, therefore, has nothing to do with me]. Jenkins gives a wonderful performance: Every movement and gesture is perfectly professorial. It is also about illegal immigrants in New York City which is a major reason for showing it in the class at this particular time. Other relevant themes: Families and family connections [or lack thereof] and relations between people of different ethnic and racial backgrounds. This is a small and independent film that, according to some, was the only such film to have made any money in the last year. It actually played for some time in a Lansing area theater. Just about every major film critic loved it and you will see if you agree with them. The Chicago film critic Roger Ebert once said that, to a considerable extent, Europeans make films for adults and Americans make films for children. This is a very American and very grown-up film.