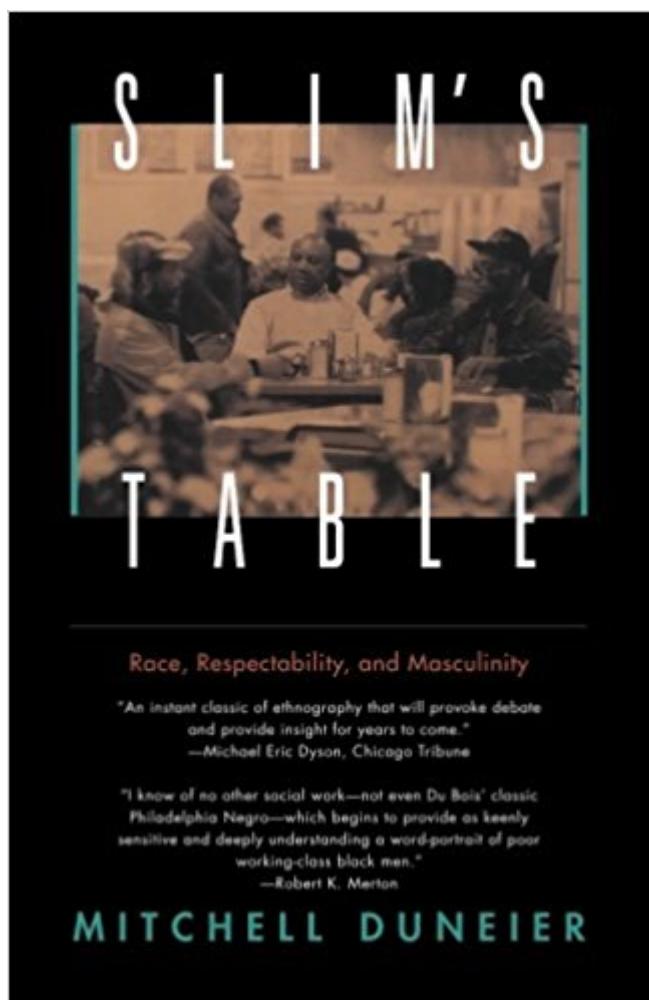


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# **Slim's Table: Race, Respectability, And Masculinity (American Studies Collection)**



## Synopsis

At the Valois "See Your Food" cafeteria on Chicago's South Side, black and white men gather over cups of coffee and steam-table food. Mitchell Duneier, a sociologist, spent four years at the Valois writing this moving profile of the black men who congregate at "Slim's Table." Praised as "a marvelous study of those who should not be forgotten" by the Wall Street Journal, Slim's Table helps demolish the narrow sociological picture of black men and simple media-reinforced stereotypes. In between is a "respectable" citizenry, too often ignored and little understood. "Slim's Table is an astonishment. Duneier manages to fling open windows of perception into what it means to be working-class black, how a caring community can proceed from the most ordinary transactions, all the while smashing media-induced stereotypes of the races and race relations." •Citation for Chicago Sun Times Chicago Book of the Year Award "An instant classic of ethnography that will provoke debate and provide insight for years to come." •Michael Eric Dyson, Chicago Tribune "Mr. Duneier sees the subjects of his study as people and he sees the scale of their lives as fully human, rather than as diminished versions of grander lives lived elsewhere by people of another color. . . . A welcome antidote to trends in both journalism and sociology." •Roger Wilkins, New York Times Book Review

## Book Information

Series: American Studies Collection

Paperback: 200 pages

Publisher: University Of Chicago Press; 1 edition (May 28, 1994)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0226170314

ISBN-13: 978-0226170312

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.6 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 16 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #123,896 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #124 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Gender Studies > Men #337 in Books > Textbooks > Social Sciences > Gender Studies #475 in Books > Medical Books > Psychology > Social Psychology & Interactions

## Customer Reviews

While a graduate student during the 1980s Duneier, who is white, hung out for four years with the

black and white regulars at Valois Cafeteria, a restaurant on the fringes of the black ghetto on Chicago's South Side. Through his eyes we meet Slim, a reserved black car mechanic whose solicitude for Bart, a retired white file clerk from the rural South, strips the latter of his preconceptions about blacks. A moving testament to the power of integration over ingrained beliefs, this sensitive study reveals that the underclass has many faces. Unlike the "outer-directed, attention-seeking" black male stereotypes portrayed in sociology and the mass media, Duneier's African American cafeteria buddies are "consistently inner-directed," deriving their sense of self-worth from adherence to personal standards of civility, solidarity, decency, pride and discretion. Duneier, who recently received his doctorate in sociology from the University of Chicago, shows how the collective life of the cafeteria helps its clientele overcome their sense of living in a moral vacuum. Photos not seen by PW. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

This book deals with the lives of older working-class African American men of the South Side ghettos of Chicago. The author spent four years getting to know these men at their gathering place, the Valois "see your food" Cafeteria in Hyde Park. The men who comprise Slim's table are a representative group of employed, mainly single men living in rooms or small apartments. They exhibit tolerance and pride and demonstrate respect and civility toward others. The author believes that the way they live is a model for all races and hopes to refute media stereotypes by reporting the reality of their situations. The book is written for a college-educated audience. Recommended for large public libraries.- Del Cain, V.A. Medical Ctr. Lib., Bedford, Mass. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Needed it for my college class. Didn't use it much but that doesn't detract from the fact this book was cheaper online than at our bookstore

Duneier has a winner in Slim's Table. This is an awesome book depicting the Chicago area and the lives of a group of men. This is a true story that is easy to read and it creates a feeling of not wanting to put the book down. I have recommended this book to family members to read and they have enjoyed it as well!

Mitchell Duneier's, presents the stories of the men of Slim's table through the eyes of the participants. Using disciplined observation, coupled with amazing ethnographic skills, he gives fresh,

never stereotypical, insights into the lives of these men and their meaningful interaction with their world.

Very well-written and insight book. At times it came off as almost self-congratulatory Duneier's accounts and were interesting nevertheless.

This book was a great read. It showed the side of Chicago that people don't generally see unless they live there and are part of the culture. I would definitely recommend this book. It is a great eye opener.

It reminds me of any coffee shop really, but it does give some good insight on racial issues especially toward the end.

This is for my college classes, everything looks good! Thanks!

great addition to my black masculinity canon.

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