

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910451555003321
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Titolo	Canons and contexts / / Paul Lauter [[electronic resource]]
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New York : , : Oxford University Press, , 2020
ISBN	0-19-756022-9 0-19-802227-1 1-280-52561-4 1-4294-0005-6
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (315 p.)
Collana	Oxford scholarship online
Disciplina	810.9
Soggetti	American literature - History and criticism - Theory, etc Criticism - United States - History - 20th century English philology - Study and teaching (Higher) - United States Canon (Literature)
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Previously issued in print: 1991.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Sommario/riassunto	Lauter is one of the leading figures in the project known as Reconstructing American Literature. The essays in this book represent his effort to establish a theory of 'Canonical Criticism'. They reflect the eloquence and passion of a serious commitment to understanding and influencing the relationship between social justice, academic freedom, and literary history.