

# ***Stanley Cavell, Prominent Harvard Philosopher, Dies at 91***

By **Neil Genzlinger**

June 20, 2018

Stanley Cavell, a prominent philosopher who found heady ideas not only in the works of great thinkers of the past but also in romantic comedies from Hollywood, died on Tuesday in Boston. He was 91.

The cause was heart failure, his son David said.

Professor Cavell was for decades on the faculty of Harvard University, where he often expounded on the ideas of what is called ordinary language philosophy, which argues that philosophers have become so preoccupied with convoluted statements of philosophical problems that they have lost touch with everyday words and their meanings.

As he put it in his 1984 book, “Themes Out of School: Effects and Causes,” philosophy should be a “willingness to think not about something other than what ordinary human beings think about, but rather to learn to think undistractedly about things that ordinary human beings cannot help thinking about.”

**Show Full Article**