

Farnaz Masumian

masumian@mail.utexas.edu

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Coursework: 30 hours of Ph.D. coursework, The University of Texas at Austin
Major: Persian Studies
Minor: World Religions

Areas of Study:

Persian Studies, East Asian Religions, Middle Eastern Religions,

Master of Arts: The University of Texas at Austin, August 1985
Major: Middle Eastern Studies
Minor: World Religions

Areas of Study:

Middle-Eastern Religious & Political Institutions, Eastern & Western Mysticism, East Asian Studies (Buddhism & Hinduism), Muslim Political Thought, and Contemporary Arab Culture

Master's Thesis (Afterlife in World Religions):

Compared eschatological concepts such as Heaven and Hell, Resurrection, Day of Judgment, and Reincarnation, in major world religions (Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Zoroastrianism, Christianity, Islam and the Bahá'í Faith).

Bachelor of Arts: The University of Texas at Austin, December 1983.
Major: Oriental and African Languages with specialization in Arabic language

Areas of Study:

Composition, Expository Writing, Arabic literature, Arabic Etymology and Syntax, Prose and Poetry, and Philosophy.

SKILLS AND CREDENTIALS

University of Texas at Austin instructor of World Religions; knowledge of English, Persian, and Arabic languages;

Able to teach:

- World Religions classes
- Afterlife in World Religions and the Near-Death Experience (NDE)
- Meditation

Publications:

- **2009**- Published a book chapter titled "*Spirituality, World Religions, and NDEs (Near-Death Experiences)*" in "**[The Handbook of Near-Death Experiences: Thirty Years of Investigation](#)**." This book was the outcome of the proceedings of the *International Association of Near-Death Studies Conference* held in Houston, Texas in October 2006.

- **2005- [Divine Educators](#):** This inter-faith book, published by "George Ronald" of Oxford, England focuses on common themes and patterns in the lives of the founders of great religions (Jesus, Moses, Muhammad, Buddha, Zoroaster, etc.).
- **2002- [Life After Death: A Study of the Afterlife in World Religions](#)**
Published by Kalimat Press of U.S., this work was originally published in 1995 by Oneworld Publications, Inc. of Oxford, England. The book contains afterlife doctrines of seven major world religions (Hinduism, Buddhism, Zoroastrianism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and the Bahá'í Faith). A chapter on reincarnation and transmigration, and two chapters on Near Death Experience (NDE) are also included. Similarities and differences between religious and NDE accounts of afterlife are discussed, too. This book has been
 - reprinted 3 times so far
 - translated into several other languages including Russian, Polish, and Indonesian
 - won first prize in religion/spirituality category at the 1998 Beijing, China Book Fair
 - has been adopted as RELIGION textbook in at least two U.S. institutions of higher education
- **2000- Inter-Faith Meditation CD** with passages from the scriptures of different world religions and music from the Jumelle (blind and deaf twins).

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Adjunct Faculty of World Religions at the University of Texas at Austin: 2005-Present

- has taught a class on World Religions and Social Work at U.T. Austin which covers the history, teachings, and principles of Hinduism, Buddhism, Zoroastrianism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and the Bahá'í Faith. The last few lectures focus on afterlife in these religions as well as a comparison of the afterlife concepts with NDE accounts.

Austin Community College (ACC): 1992-2004

- taught two classroom sections of "World Religions" at three different campuses of ACC for 12 years.
- Also taught a web-based version of this course via ACC's internal web for 6 years. This was one of the first web-based courses ever offered at ACC.

International Association of Near-Death Studies Conference (Houston, Texas): October 2006

- Presented research on "Spirituality, World Religions, and NDEs (Near-Death Experiences)".
- Attended by 300 people from around the world and held at the [University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Research Center](#).

The University of Texas at Austin: Fall 2006

- Professional Development Continuing Education: Half-day workshop on "Introduction to World Religions", School of Social Work

New Mexico State University: Spring 2003

- Continuing Education: Full Day Seminar on World Religions and Their Eschatologies (Afterlife Teachings)

The University of Texas at Austin: Spring 2002

- Professional Development Continuing Education: Half-day workshop on "Introduction to World Religions", School of Social Work

The University of Texas at Austin: Fall 2001

- Professional Development Continuing Education: Full-Day Seminar on "World Religions and Their Afterlife Teachings", School of Social Work

Community Service:

- Has given lectures on afterlife in World religions at churches, religious centers, conferences, and bookstores throughout her career

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIPS

- Former member of [International Association for Near-Death Studies \(IANDS\)](#)