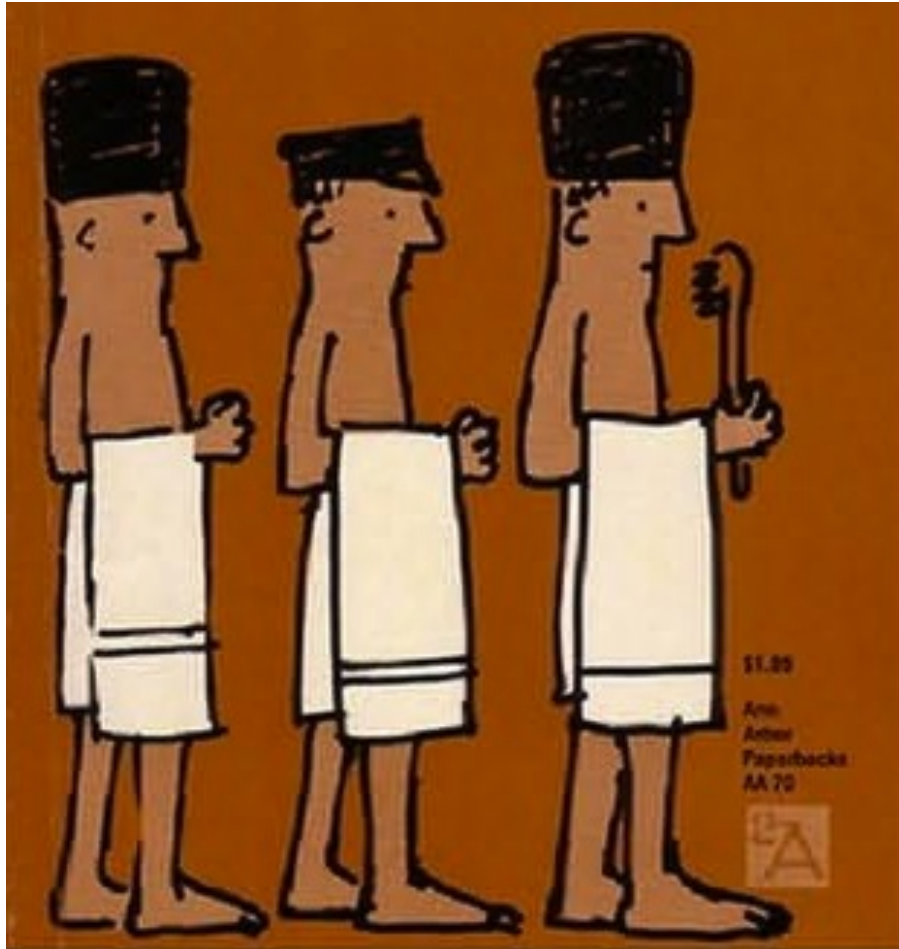


Humor in Russian and Soviet Culture

Spring 2014
Russian 150



In this course, we will trace the ways in which Russians have used humor to grapple with the "big ideas" and to challenge important notions of authority and literary institutions. We will touch upon puppet theater, carnival celebrations and will focus on famous humorists such as Chekhov, Zoshchenko, and Il'f and Petrov. We will study in depth famous authors of the late Soviet (Chonkin, V. Erofeev) and post-Soviet eras (e.g., Pelevin) as well as Soviet jokes (*anekdoty*), internet memes, and more. We'll have a chance to read and meet in person the Russian-born American superstar writer Gary Shteyngart!

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