Module 6: Asynchronous JavaScript

Weeks 10-11

Learning Objectives

By the end of this module, you will:

- Understand the JavaScript event loop and call stack
- Master callbacks and avoid callback hell
- Work effectively with Promises and Promise chains
- Use async/await for cleaner asynchronous code
- Fetch data from REST APIs using the Fetch API
- Handle errors in asynchronous operations
- Implement parallel and sequential async operations

Understanding Asynchronous Programming

Synchronous vs Asynchronous:

```
javascript

// Synchronous code - blocking

console.log('First');

console.log('Second');

console.log('Third');

// Output: First, Second, Third (in order)

// Asynchronous code - non-blocking

console.log('First');

setTimeout(() => {

    console.log('End');
}

asyncExample();

// Output: Start, End, Promise callback, Timeout callback

// Promises have higher priority than setTimeout in the event loop
```

Callbacks

Basic Callback Pattern:

```
javascript
// Simple callback function
function fetchStudentData(studentId, callback) {
  console.log('Fetching student data...');
  // Simulate network delay
  setTimeout(() => {
     const student = {
       id: studentId,
       name: 'Alice Johnson',
       major: 'Computer Science',
       gpa: 3.85
     };
     callback(null, student); // First parameter is error, second is data
  }, 1500);
// Using the callback
fetchStudentData('STU001', (error, student) => {
  if (error) {
     console.error('Error fetching student:', error);
  console.log('Student data received:', student);
});
```

Error-First Callbacks (Node.js Convention):

```
javascript
```

```
function validateAndSaveStudent(studentData, callback) {
  // Validation
  if (!studentData.name) {
     callback(new Error('Student name is required'));
     return;
  if (!studentData.email) {
     callback(new Error('Student email is required'));
     return;
  }
  // Simulate saving to database
  setTimeout(() => {
    if (Math.random() > 0.8) {
       // Simulate random error
       callback(new Error('Database connection failed'));
    } else {
       const savedStudent = {
          ...studentData.
         id: Math.floor(Math.random() * 10000),
          createdAt: new Date()
       callback(null, savedStudent);
  }, 1000);
// Usage with proper error handling
const newStudent = {
  name: 'Bob Smith',
  email: 'bob@university.edu',
  major: 'Mathematics'
};
validateAndSaveStudent(newStudent, (error, savedStudent) => {
  if (error) {
     console.error('Failed to save student:', error.message);
     return;
```

<pre>console.log('Student saved successfully:', savedStudent); });</pre>	
allback Hell Problem:	
javascript	

```
// This becomes difficult to read and maintain
fetchStudentData(studentId, (error, student) => {
  if (error) {
     console.error('Error:', error);
     return;
  fetchStudentCourses(student.id, (error, courses) => {
     if (error) {
        console.error('Error:', error);
        return;
     fetchCourseGrades(courses, (error, grades) => {
        if (error) {
          console.error('Error:', error);
          return;
        calculateGPA(grades, (error, gpa) => {
          if (error) {
             console.error('Error:', error);
             return;
          }
          updateStudentRecord(student.id, gpa, (error, result) => {
             if (error) {
               console.error('Error:', error);
               return;
             console.log('Student GPA updated successfully');
          });
       });
     });
  });
});
```

Promises

Creating Promises:			
javascript			

```
// Basic Promise creation
function fetchStudentPromise(studentId) {
  return new Promise((resolve, reject) => {
     console.log('Fetching student data...');
     setTimeout(() => {
       if (!studentId) {
          reject(new Error('Student ID is required'));
          return;
       if (Math.random() > 0.9) {
          reject(new Error('Student not found'));
          return;
       const student = {
          id: studentId,
          name: 'Alice Johnson',
          major: 'Computer Science',
          gpa: 3.85,
          courses: ['CS101', 'CS201', 'MATH101']
       resolve(student);
     }, 1000);
  });
// Using the Promise
fetchStudentPromise('STU001')
  .then(student => {
     console.log('Student found:', student);
     return student; // Pass data to next .then()
  })
  .then(student => {
     console.log(`${student.name} is majoring in ${student.major}`);
     return student.gpa;
  })
  .then(gpa => {
     console.log('Student GPA:', gpa);
  })
  .catch(error => {
```

```
console.error('Error:', error.message);
})
.finally(() => {
    console.log('Promise chain completed');
});
```

Promise States:

```
javascript
// Demonstrate Promise states
function demonstratePromiseStates() {
  // Pending Promise
  const pendingPromise = new Promise((resolve, reject) => {
    // Never resolves - stays pending
  });
  console.log('Pending promise:', pendingPromise);
  // Fulfilled Promise
  const fulfilledPromise = Promise.resolve('Success!');
  console.log('Fulfilled promise:', fulfilledPromise);
  // Rejected Promise
  const rejectedPromise = Promise.reject(new Error('Failed!'));
  console.log('Rejected promise:', rejectedPromise);
  // Handle rejected promise to avoid uncaught error
  rejectedPromise.catch(error => {
     console.log('Caught rejection:', error.message);
  });
demonstratePromiseStates();
```

Promise Chaining:

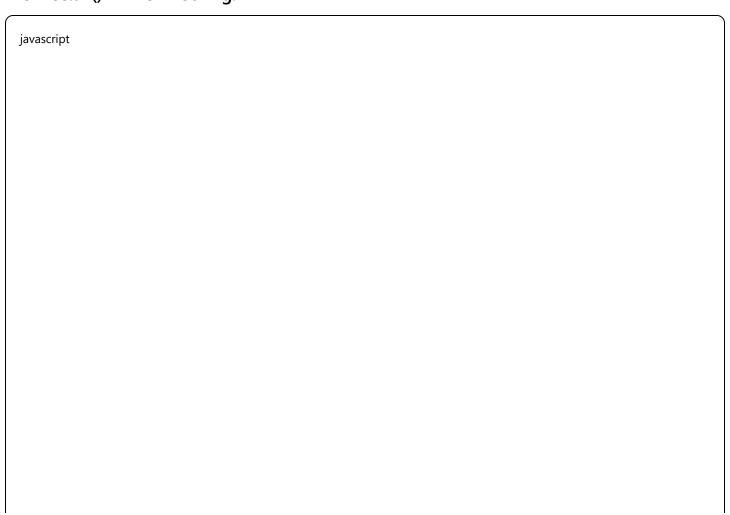
javascript

```
class StudentAPI {
  static fetchStudent(id) {
     return new Promise((resolve, reject) => {
       setTimeout(() => {
          if (id === 'STU001') {
            resolve({ id, name: 'Alice Johnson', major: 'CS' });
            reject(new Error('Student not found'));
       }, 500);
    });
  static fetchCourses(studentId) {
     return new Promise((resolve) => {
       setTimeout(() => {
          resolve([
            { id: 'CS101', name: 'Programming Fundamentals', grade: 'A' },
            { id: 'CS201', name: 'Data Structures', grade: 'B+' },
            { id: 'MATH101', name: 'Calculus I', grade: 'A-' }
         ]);
       }, 300);
    });
  }
  static calculateGPA(courses) {
     return new Promise((resolve) => {
       setTimeout(() => {
          const gradePoints = {
            'A': 4.0, 'A-': 3.7, 'B+': 3.3, 'B': 3.0,
            'B-': 2.7, 'C+': 2.3, 'C': 2.0, 'D': 1.0, 'F': 0.0
          };
          const totalPoints = courses.reduce((sum, course) =>
            sum + gradePoints[course.grade], 0);
          const gpa = totalPoints / courses.length;
          resolve(gpa);
       }, 200);
    });
```

```
// Clean Promise chain
StudentAPI.fetchStudent('STU001')
  .then(student => {
    console.log('Student:', student);
    return StudentAPI.fetchCourses(student.id);
  })
  .then(courses => {
    console.log('Courses:', courses);
    return StudentAPI.calculateGPA(courses);
  })
  .then(gpa => {
    console.log('Calculated GPA:', gpa.toFixed(2));
  })
  .catch(error => {
    console.error('Error in chain:', error.message);
  });
```

Promise Utilities

Promise.all() - All or Nothing:



```
// Wait for all promises to resolve
function fetchAllStudentData() {
  const studentlds = ['STU001', 'STU002', 'STU003'];
  const promises = studentlds.map(id =>
     StudentAPI.fetchStudent(id).catch(error => ({
       error: error.message
     }))
  );
  return Promise.all(promises);
fetchAllStudentData()
  .then(results => {
     console.log('All students fetched:', results);
  })
  .catch(error => {
     console.error('One or more requests failed:', error);
  });
// Promise.all fails fast - if any promise rejects, the whole thing rejects
const mixedPromises = [
  Promise.resolve('Success 1'),
  Promise.resolve('Success 2'),
  Promise.reject(new Error('Failure')),
  Promise.resolve('Success 3')
];
Promise.all(mixedPromises)
  .then(results => {
     console.log('All succeeded:', results); // Won't execute
  })
  .catch(error => {
     console.log('At least one failed:', error.message); // Will execute
  });
```

Promise.allSettled() - Wait for All (Success or Failure):

javascript

```
// Wait for all promises regardless of outcome
Promise.allSettled([
    StudentAPI.fetchStudent('STU001'),
    StudentAPI.fetchStudent('INVALID'),
    StudentAPI.fetchStudent('STU003')
])
.then(results => {
    results.forEach((result, index) => {
        if (result.status === 'fulfilled') {
            console.log('Student $(index + 1):', result.value);
        } else {
            console.log('Student $(index + 1) failed:', result.reason.message);
        }
        ));
});
```

Promise.race() - First to Complete:

```
javascript

// Return the first promise to complete (resolve or reject)

const fastServer = new Promise(resolve =>
    setTimeout(() => resolve('Fast server response'), 100));

const slowServer = new Promise(resolve =>
    setTimeout(() => resolve('Slow server response'), 1000));

const timeout = new Promise(__ reject) =>
    setTimeout(() => reject(new Error('Request timeout')), 500));

Promise.race([fastServer, slowServer, timeout])
    .then(result => {
        console.log('Winner:', result); // 'Fast server response'
    })
    .catch(error => {
        console.error('Error:', error.message);
    });
```

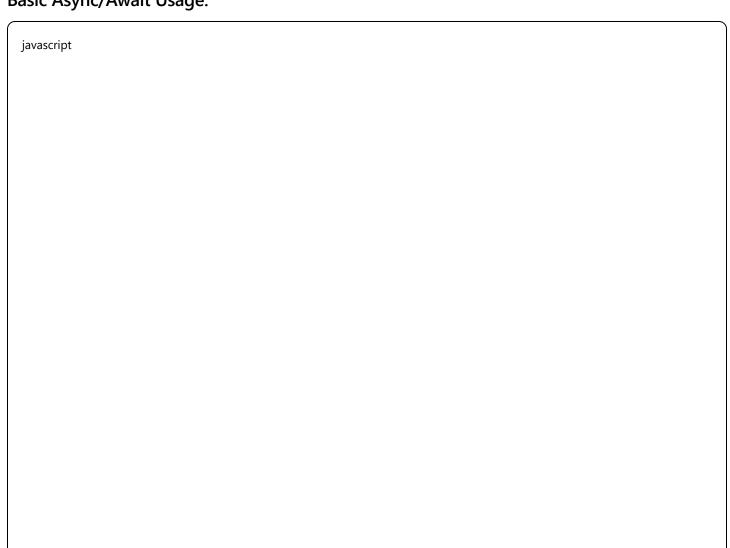
Promise.any() - First Successful:

```
javascript
```

```
// Return the first promise to resolve (ignore rejections unless all fail)
const servers = [
  new Promise((_, reject) => setTimeout(() => reject(new Error('Server 1 down')), 100)),
  new Promise(resolve => setTimeout(() => resolve('Server 2 success'), 200)),
  new Promise(resolve => setTimeout(() => resolve('Server 3 success'), 150))
Promise.any(servers)
  .then(result => {
    console.log('First success:', result); // 'Server 3 success'
  })
  .catch(error => {
     console.error('All servers failed:', error);
  });
```

Async/Await

Basic Async/Await Usage:



```
// Convert Promise chain to async/await
async function fetchStudentReport(studentId) {
  try {
     console.log('Starting to fetch student report...');
     // These run sequentially
     const student = await StudentAPI.fetchStudent(studentId);
     console.log('Student fetched:', student.name);
     const courses = await StudentAPI.fetchCourses(studentId);
     console.log('Courses fetched:', courses.length);
     const gpa = await StudentAPI.calculateGPA(courses);
     console.log('GPA calculated:', gpa.toFixed(2));
     return {
       student,
       courses,
       gpa,
       generatedAt: new Date()
     };
  } catch (error) {
     console.error('Error generating report:', error.message);
     throw error; // Re-throw to let caller handle
// Using async function
fetchStudentReport('STU001')
  .then(report => {
     console.log('Report generated:', report);
  })
  .catch(error => {
     console.error('Report generation failed:', error.message);
  });
```

Parallel vs Sequential Execution:

javascript

```
// Sequential execution (slower)
async function fetchStudentsSequential(ids) {
  const students = [];
  for (const id of ids) {
     try {
       const student = await StudentAPI.fetchStudent(id);
       students.push(student);
     } catch (error) {
       console.error(`Failed to fetch student ${id}:`, error.message);
  return students:
// Parallel execution (faster)
async function fetchStudentsParallel(ids) {
  const promises = ids.map(async (id) => {
     try {
       return await StudentAPI.fetchStudent(id);
     } catch (error) {
       console.error(`Failed to fetch student ${id}:`, error.message);
       return null; // Return null instead of throwing
  });
  const results = await Promise.all(promises);
  return results.filter(student => student !== null);
// Comparison
async function compareExecutionTimes() {
  const studentids = ['STU001', 'STU002', 'STU003', 'STU004'];
  console.time('Sequential');
  const sequentialResults = await fetchStudentsSequential(studentIds);
  console.timeEnd('Sequential');
  console.time('Parallel');
  const parallelResults = await fetchStudentsParallel(studentIds);
  console.timeEnd('Parallel');
```

```
console.log('Sequential count:', sequentialResults.length);
console.log('Parallel count:', parallelResults.length);
}
compareExecutionTimes();
```

Advanced Async Patterns:

javascript	

```
class AsyncStudentProcessor {
  constructor() {
    this.processingQueue = [];
    this.isProcessing = false;
  // Process items one at a time
  async processQueue() {
    if (this.isProcessing) return;
    this.isProcessing = true;
    while (this.processingQueue.length > 0) {
       const task = this.processingQueue.shift();
       try {
          await this.processStudent(task.studentId);
          task.resolve();
       } catch (error) {
          task.reject(error);
    this.isProcessing = false;
  // Add student to processing queue
  queueStudent(studentId) {
    return new Promise((resolve, reject) => {
       this.processingQueue.push({ studentId, resolve, reject });
       this.processQueue(); // Start processing if not already running
    });
  async processStudent(studentId) {
    console.log(`Processing student ${studentId}...`);
    // Simulate complex processing
    await new Promise(resolve => setTimeout(resolve, 1000));
     console.log(`Student ${studentId} processed successfully`);
  // Retry with exponential backoff
```

```
async retryOperation(operation, maxRetries = 3, baseDelay = 1000) {
     let lastError;
     for (let attempt = 1; attempt <= maxRetries; attempt++) {</pre>
       try {
          return await operation();
       } catch (error) {
          lastError = error;
          if (attempt === maxRetries) {
            break; // Don't wait after last attempt
          const delay = baseDelay * Math.pow(2, attempt - 1);
          console.log(`Attempt ${attempt} failed, retrying in ${delay}ms...`);
          await new Promise(resolve => setTimeout(resolve, delay));
     throw new Error('Operation failed after ${maxRetries} attempts: ${lastError.message}');
  // Batch processing with concurrency limit
  async processBatch(studentIds, concurrency = 3) {
     const results = [];
     for (let i = 0; i < studentIds.length; i += concurrency) {
       const batch = studentIds.slice(i, i + concurrency);
       const batchPromises = batch.map(id =>
          this.retryOperation(() => StudentAPI.fetchStudent(id))
       );
       const batchResults = await Promise.allSettled(batchPromises);
       results.push(...batchResults);
     return results;
// Usage
const processor = new AsyncStudentProcessor();
// Queue multiple students
```

	processor.queueStudent('STU001');
	processor.queueStudent('STU002');
	processor.queueStudent('STU003');
L	

Working with APIs

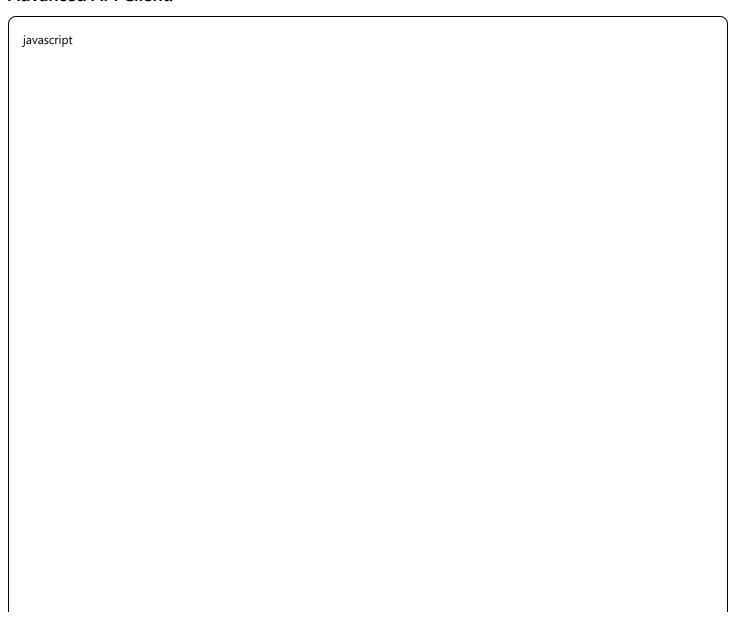
javascript		

```
// Basic GET request
async function fetchStudent(id) {
  try {
     const response = await fetch(`/api/students/${id}`);
     if (!response.ok) {
       throw new Error(`HTTP error! status: ${response.status}`);
     const student = await response.json();
     return student;
  } catch (error) {
     console.error('Fetch error:', error);
     throw error;
// POST request with data
async function createStudent(studentData) {
  try {
     const response = await fetch('/api/students', {
       method: 'POST',
       headers: {
          'Content-Type': 'application/json',
          'Authorization': 'Bearer your-token-here'
       body: JSON.stringify(studentData)
     });
     if (!response.ok) {
       const errorData = await response.json();
       throw new Error(errorData.message | 'Failed to create student');
     const createdStudent = await response.json();
     return createdStudent:
  } catch (error) {
     console.error('Create student error:', error);
     throw error;
```

```
// Usage
const newStudent = {
    name: 'Charlie Brown',
    email: 'charlie@university.edu',
    major: 'Physics'
};

createStudent(newStudent)
    .then(student => {
        console.log('Student created:', student);
    })
    .catch(error => {
        console.error('Failed to create student:', error.message);
});
```

Advanced API Client:



```
class UniversityAPI {
  constructor(baseURL, apiKey) {
    this.baseURL = baseURL:
    this.apiKey = apiKey;
  async request(endpoint, options = {}) {
    const url = `${this.baseURL}${endpoint}`;
    const config = {
       ...options,
       headers: {
          'Content-Type': 'application/json',
         'Authorization': `Bearer ${this.apiKey}`,
         ...options.headers
    };
    try {
       const response = await fetch(url, config);
       // Handle different status codes
       if (response.status === 401) {
          throw new Error('Authentication failed');
       if (response.status = = = 403) {
         throw new Error('Access forbidden');
       if (response.status = = = 404) {
         throw new Error('Resource not found');
       if (!response.ok) {
          const errorText = await response.text();
         throw new Error(`HTTP ${response.status}: ${errorText}`);
       // Handle empty responses
       const contentType = response.headers.get('Content-Type');
       if (contentType && contentType.includes('application/json')) {
          return await response.json();
       } else {
```

```
return await response.text();
  } catch (error) {
     if (error.name === 'TypeError') {
       throw new Error('Network error - please check your connection');
     throw error;
// GET request
async get(endpoint) {
  return this.request(endpoint, { method: 'GET' });
// POST request
async post(endpoint, data) {
  return this.request(endpoint, {
     method: 'POST',
     body: JSON.stringify(data)
  });
// PUT request
async put(endpoint, data) {
  return this.request(endpoint, {
     method: 'PUT',
     body: JSON.stringify(data)
  });
// DELETE request
async delete(endpoint) {
  return this.request(endpoint, { method: 'DELETE' });
// Student-specific methods
async getStudents(page = 1, limit = 10) {
  return this.get(`/students?page=${page}&limit=${limit}`);
async getStudent(id) {
  return this.get(`/students/${id}`);
```

```
async createStudent(studentData) {
     return this.post('/students', studentData);
  async updateStudent(id, updates) {
     return this.put(`/students/${id}`, updates);
  async deleteStudent(id) {
     return this.delete('/students/${id}');
  // Batch operations
  async getMultipleStudents(ids) {
     const promises = ids.map(id =>
       this.getStudent(id).catch(error => ({
          error: error.message
       }))
     );
     return Promise.all(promises);
// Usage
const api = new UniversityAPI('https://api.university.edu', 'your-api-key');
// Example operations
async function demonstrateAPI() {
  try {
     // Get all students
     const students = await api.getStudents(1, 20);
     console.log('Students:', students);
     // Get specific student
     const student = await api.getStudent('STU001');
     console.log('Student details:', student);
     // Create new student
     const newStudent = await api.createStudent({
       name: 'Diana Prince',
```

```
email: 'diana@university.edu',
    major: 'Psychology'
});
console.log('New student created:', newStudent);

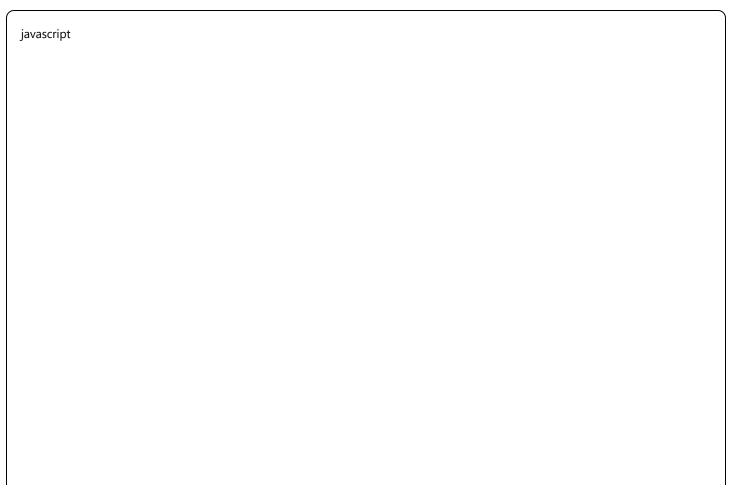
// Update student
const updatedStudent = await api.updateStudent(newStudent.id, {
    gpa: 3.9
});
console.log('Student updated:', updatedStudent);

} catch (error) {
    console.error('API operation failed:', error.message);
}

demonstrateAPI();
```

Error Handling in Async Code

Try-Catch with Async/Await:



```
async function robustStudentOperations() {
  try {
    // Multiple operations that might fail
    const student = await api.getStudent('STU001');
     console.log('Student fetched:', student.name);
    const courses = await api.getStudentCourses(student.id);
    console.log('Courses fetched:', courses.length);
    const grades = await api.getStudentGrades(student.id);
     console.log('Grades fetched:', grades.length);
    return { student, courses, grades };
  } catch (error) {
    // Handle different types of errors
    if (error.message.includes('Network error')) {
       console.error('Connection problem - please try again later');
    } else if (error.message.includes('not found')) {
       console.error('Student not found in database');
    } else if (error.message.includes('Authentication')) {
       console.error('Please log in again');
    } else {
       console.error('Unexpected error:', error.message);
    // Re-throw if needed
    throw error;
```

Custom Error Classes:

javascript			

```
class APIError extends Error {
  constructor(message, status, endpoint) {
     super(message);
     this.name = 'APIError';
     this.status = status:
     this.endpoint = endpoint;
class ValidationError extends Error {
  constructor(message, field) {
     super(message);
     this.name = 'ValidationError';
     this.field = field:
class NetworkError extends Error {
  constructor(message, originalError) {
     super(message);
     this.name = 'NetworkError';
     this.originalError = originalError;
// Enhanced API client with custom errors
class EnhancedAPI extends UniversityAPI {
  async request(endpoint, options = {}) {
     try {
       return await super.request(endpoint, options);
     } catch (error) {
       if (error.message.includes('Network error')) {
          throw new NetworkError('Unable to connect to server', error);
       if (error.message.includes('HTTP 4')) {
          throw new APIError(error.message, 400, endpoint);
       throw error;
```

```
async createStudentWithValidation(studentData) {
     // Client-side validation
     if (IstudentData.name | studentData.name.trim().length < 2) {
       throw new ValidationError('Name must be at least 2 characters', 'name');
     if (IstudentData.email | IstudentData.email.includes('@')) {
       throw new ValidationError('Valid email is required', 'email');
     return this.createStudent(studentData);
// Usage with specific error handling
async function handleSpecificErrors() {
  const api = new EnhancedAPI('https://api.university.edu', 'api-key');
  try {
     const student = await api.createStudentWithValidation({
       name: 'X', // Too short
       email: 'invalid-email'
    });
  } catch (error) {
     if (error instanceof ValidationError) {
       console.error(`Validation error in ${error.field}: ${error.message}`);
    } else if (error instanceof APIError) {
       console.error(`API error (${error.status}) on ${error.endpoint}: ${error.message}`);
     } else if (error instanceof NetworkError) {
       console.error('Network problem:', error.message);
       // Could implement retry logic here
    } else {
       console.error('Unexpected error:', error.message);
```

Assignment 6: Student Portal with API Integration

Requirements:

Part 1: API Integration

- 1. Create a comprehensive API client for student management
- 2. Implement proper error handling and retry logic
- 3. Add loading states and progress indicators
- 4. Handle network failures gracefully

Part 2: Asynchronous Operations

- 1. Build concurrent data fetching for better performance
- 2. Implement caching to reduce API calls
- 3. Add real-time search with debounced requests
- 4. Create batch operations for multiple students

Part 3: User Experience

- 1. Show loading spinners during async operations
- 2. Implement optimistic updates (update UI before API confirms)
- 3. Add offline support with queued operations
- 4. Create comprehensive error messages for users

Code Structure Template:

javascript			

```
class StudentPortalApp {
  constructor() {
    this.api = new UniversityAPI('your-api-url', 'your-key');
    this.cache = new Map();
    this.loadingStates = new Set();
    this.offlineQueue = [];
  async loadStudents(page = 1) {
    // Implementation with caching and error handling
  async createStudent(studentData) {
    // Implementation with validation and optimistic updates
  async handleOfflineMode() {
    // Queue operations when offline
  debounce(func, delay) {
    // Debounce utility for search
```

Best Practices Summary

Async/Await Best Practices:

- 1. Always use try-catch: Handle errors properly in async functions
- 2. Prefer async/await over Promises: More readable for complex operations
- 3. Use Promise.all for parallelism: When operations can run concurrently
- 4. Handle loading states: Show users that operations are in progress

API Integration:

- 1. Validate before sending: Check data on client before API calls
- 2. Handle all HTTP status codes: Don't just check for 200
- 3. **Implement retry logic**: For transient failures
- 4. Use proper error messages: Help users understand what went wrong

Performance:

- 1. Cache API responses: Reduce unnecessary network requests
- 2. **Debounce user input**: For search and real-time features
- 3. Use pagination: Don't load all data at once
- 4. Implement progressive loading: Show partial results while loading more

Next Module Preview

Module 7: Modern JavaScript Features

- ES6+ syntax and features
- Destructuring and spread operators
- Modules and imports
- Advanced object features
- Symbols, iterators, and generators

Preparation:

- Practice async/await patterns
- Build API-integrated applications
- Master error handling techniques
- Understand Promise utilities

Questions for Review

- 1. When should you use Promise.all vs Promise.allSettled?
- 2. How do you handle errors in async/await functions?
- 3. What's the difference between sequential and parallel async operations?
- 4. How can you implement retry logic for failed API calls?
- 5. What are the best practices for API client architecture?

Practice Exercises:

- Build a real-time search interface
- Create an offline-capable application

- Implement a file upload system with progress tracking
- Design a batch processing system for large datasets('Second (delayed)'); }, 1000); console.log('Third');
 // Output: First, Third, Second (delayed)

```
### The Event Loop:
```javascript
// Call stack demonstration
function first() {
 console.log('First function');
 second();
 console.log('First function end');
function second() {
 console.log('Second function');
 third();
 console.log('Second function end');
function third() {
 console.log('Third function');
first();
// Call stack: first() -> second() -> third() -> back to second() -> back to first()
// With asynchronous code
function asyncExample() {
 console.log('Start');
 setTimeout(() => {
 console.log('Timeout callback');
 }, 0);
 Promise.resolve().then(() => {
 console.log('Promise callback');
 });
 console.log
```