Isaiah Fentress CS290w16 Activity: Practice!

Understanding:

I took the suggestion and created a to-do list that allowed the user to specify a city and a minimum temperature for each item. These were then displayed back to the user along with the item they created. I created the list of items to return for the to-do list and included a flag that either populated the class of the listed item as a green or red item. This allowed me to populate the background using a CSS to produce the appropriate back ground color for the element. For the post request I just tested out HTTP bin using a separate URL for that. It was simple enough in a non-nested format. I played around with passing string variables to the request, instead of hard coding the JSON object.

The biggest problem I had was with the asynchronous requests. I was unable to get the example from the lectures working, and was unable to get it working with two calls to the same service (API weather). I started googling around and figured out that there was a module called async that is designed to handle asynchronous requests, especially in loops.

- http://stackoverflow.com/questions/20462994/node-js-make-http-calls-in-for-loop
- http://stackoverflow.com/questions/15170280/node-js-api-calls-in-an-async-loop

I used this module to assist with the for loop for calls to open weather map API, and it seemed to be working after I made that change. Once this was sorted out I think the hardest part was just wrapping my mind around the abstract nature of all the information I was going to be passing back to my handlebars template. The class name for coloring, the item name, the temperature, the city… just all of the content going back was a little hard to organize. Eventually I got it there after some errors and was able to make it work.

I also find the general structure of the “views” folder to be a little counter-intuitive. I think I need to spend more time looking through examples online to see how people format their folders. I was able to get my CSS references and such to work, but it was a little confusing at first, and I think on a big project I would quickly get lost and have to spend time understanding this. I also appreciated the input on organization at the end of the lecture, and definitely helped when creating my async loop.